





## Ambiguous poll messages frustrate prospects for Labour

LABOUR leaders seeking guidance from recent polls about their election prospects are in for a frustrating time. The messages from the polls are ambiguous.

Labour's optimism can point to three favourable trends. First, during the past ten days Labour has regained a 3-4 percentage-point poll lead — enough to put Mr. Kinnock into No. 10, although without an overall majority.

The Conservative surge earlier this month looks increasingly like a temporary blip rather than the beginning of a sustained recovery. Conservative claims that they are doing best where it matters most were contradicted by this week's *Daily Express* poll of Conservative marginals which, in line with other national polls, put Labour 3 points ahead.

Second, the policy agenda favours Labour. On the issues that voters declare as most important — unemployment, the health service and education — Labour is the preferred party by comfortable margins. Welfare issues are Labour's traditional selling points, but its lead is much wider than in 1987 (see table). The issues on which it is vulnerable — defence, strikes, immigration — have dropped to the bottom of the agenda.

Third, Labour's image as a party of government has improved beyond recognition since 1987. Before the last election, voters saw the Alliance as an alternative opposition party. Only 28 per cent regarded Labour as the "only party that can turn out the government"; now 66 per cent do. In the run-up to the 1987 election, voters

Recent opinion poll results present Labour strategists with a confusing picture of how well the party is likely to perform at the next general election, Ivor Crewe writes

thought Labour unfit to govern: 73 per cent considered it "too split and divided" and 67 per cent as "too extreme". By last month these proportions had dropped to 47 and 35 per cent respectively.

Optimists can even shrug off the leadership problem. Mr. Kinnock's personal ratings might be low, but they are hardly disastrous, being no worse than Edward Heath's before he won the 1970 election and only a little below Margaret Thatcher's before she won in 1979.

Pessimists point out that most of the psephological

good news is deceptive. For technical reasons the polls are probably exaggerating Labour's support by 1-2 percentage points. They include the million-odd poll tax absentees from the register who are predominantly Labour and cannot vote, but they do not sample the 100,000 or so expatriates living abroad who are overwhelmingly Conservative and can. They take no account of the lower turnout rates among such Labour-voting groups as new electors, the urban poor and the Afro-Caribbeans. History

suggests that the government will recover ground. Under every Conservative administration, voters have swung back to the government in the eight months before an election.

The average recovery swing — 4 percentage points — would easily wipe out Labour's current slender lead. The recent ICM/*Guardian* poll suggests that, unlike last year, Labour's supporters are less strongly committed than the Conservatives'.

Labour's popularity lead on welfare issues might be worth less than it appears. In the key area of the general economy every poll shows that despite the recession the Conservatives are trusted more, albeit by moderate margins. In autumn 1986 more voters thought Labour policies were "clear" (45 per

cent) rather than "vague" (43 per cent). By last month that balance had reversed to 36 per cent and 52 per cent.

There is no sure way of choosing between the contradictory poll signals. The public backs the pessimists: 48 per cent expect the Conservatives to win, 36 per cent Labour. Before the October 1974 election (the last one Labour won) and the 1964 election (when a similar Conservative majority to today's was overturned) a substantial majority expected Labour to win. Perhaps they know something the analysts do not.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at Essex University

Diary, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

Labour lead over Conservatives (%)  
Apr 87 Jun 91 Improvement

Which party do you think has the best policies to deal with:

	Apr 87	Jun 91	Improvement
The National Health Service?	22	40	+18
Unemployment?	10	37	+27
Education and schools?	4	24	+20
Inflation and prices?	-34	-7	+27
Britain's defence?	-26	-24	+2
Strikes and industrial disputes?	-20	-11	+9
Law and order?	-26	-12	+14

Source: Gallup

Labour is the only party that can turn out the present government

	Apr 87	Jun 91	Chng %
Labour is the only party that can turn out the present government	28	66	+38
Labour has become too extreme	66	28	-38
Labour is too split and divided	67	35	-32
The economy would be in a worse state under Labour	24	55	+31
	73	47	-26
	20	43	+23
	55	44	-11
	32	42	+10

Source: Gallup

## Buoyant Kinnock denies ditching policies for power

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A BUOYANT Neil Kinnock yesterday rejected Conservative taunts that he has ditched his principles to gain power and insisted on the eve of the last Labour conference before the election that his party was on course to victory. As 8,000 delegates, observers and journalists began descending on Brighton, the Labour leader said that he still regarded himself as a socialist. It was ludicrous to associate Labour's values and beliefs with the system breaking down in Eastern Europe. "If Eastern Europe is all that socialism has to offer, then the Latin American corrupt republics are all that capital-

ism has to offer," Mr. Kinnock said in an interview with *The House Magazine*, Parliament's weekly journal.

Labour has emerged from the political whirlpool of the last month with a three-point lead over the Tories, according to the latest opinion poll, which appears to have snuffed out any lingering chance of an election in November.

Mr. Kinnock said he wanted the conference to give out a message that Labour was ready for government and had earned the opportunity by responding to popular concerns with a programme that would make Britain a better place to live. Chris Patten, the

Conservative party chairman, returned to this theme last night, saying that over the past few months Mr. Kinnock had "shown that he is prepared to ditch any principle, sacrifice any colleagues and reinterpret any piece of Labour history in the pursuit of power".

Cecil Parkinson, a former Conservative party chairman, urged the prime minister to use his speech at the Tory conference in Blackpool in two weeks to end the uncertainty and rule out general elections in November.

Mr. Kinnock said he equated socialism with freedom of the individual. But that could not be achieved without decent housing, work, a reasonable income and decent training and education. Socialism meant organising the community to provide for the individual.

"I have no worries about using the word socialist to describe myself," he said.

Labour leaders are convinced that proposals to reform the way MPs are selected will be approved by the conference tomorrow, (Philip Bassett writes).

The issue of the reelection of MPs is likely to be the only area of serious contention at the conference — though the issue of Militant will be heatedly fought on the conference fringes — and Labour leaders believe that if they can secure support for the changes they will greatly reduce the Conservatives' chances of using the conference to attack Labour.

Diary, page 12

## Labour would give men pension at 60

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN would have the right to draw the full state pension at 60 under Labour's *Charter for Pensioners* published yesterday.

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, committed a Labour government to phasing in equal pension rights for men and women at 60 together with a new national pensions plan to replace Serps (state earnings related pension scheme) and higher pensions for the over-75s. He accused the Conservatives of holding a hidden agenda for a fourth term which would set the retirement age at 63 or 65 for both

sexes and means test the state pension.

Mr. Meacher told a Westminster press conference he expected progress towards lowering the retirement age for men from 65 to 60 in a first Labour government. Certain conditions might be applied, he added, such as requiring people to work a set number of years or staging retirement according to a person's health.

Last night, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, accused Mr. Meacher of scaremongering and insisted that the Tories stood 100 per cent behind the retirement pension.



Looking the part: James Hogarth playing croquet with other City workers in London yesterday to raise funds for an alcohol, drug and mental health help group

## Immigration case suspects to be held in hospitals

By PETER VICTOR

SUSPECTED illegal immigrants requiring medical treatment will be confined to hospital in future, the Home Office announced yesterday as it launched an enquiry into how three immigrants absconded from hospitals where they were being treated for typhoid.

The move, ordered by Colin Minchin, director of enforcement at the Home Office immigration service, was announced after it was revealed that three men seeking political asylum absconded from medical care earlier this month. Immigrants needing serious medical attention will now be treated at Bellingham prison hospital in Woolwich, south-east London.

All three men arrived in Britain from Bangladesh. They had been held at the immigration detention centre in Harmondsworth, south-west London, when they took ill. Kamal Hussain, aged 25, absconded on September 10 after he was transferred to Hillingdon hospital from Northwick Park hospital, the main infectious diseases unit for the region. "Although thought to have had typhoid, he was being tested for malaria when he disappeared."

Alaud Ali, aged 30, was taken to Northwick Park hospital on September 10 and was treated for five days. He absconded two days later and is suffering from paratyphoid. Saibur Rahman was trans-

ferred to the hospital on the same day that Mr. Ali escaped. After two days of treatment he, too, ran away.

The Home Office yesterday confirmed the two men had typhoid. "We're concerned to ensure the risks to the public are minimised," a spokesman said.

Management at the hospital which treated two of the men criticised the immigration service for failing to prevent the escape. Vera Burns, from Northwick Park hospital, said the pair had been left unguarded on the isolation ward. "The responsibility for this lies with the referring authority, in this case the immigration service," she said.

The Home Office said that it had no powers to detain the men while they were in hospital. "The normal procedure is to release them temporarily, as though they were on bail," it said.

Typhoid infects the intestine and spread through food and drink infected by the organism. It causes bowel problems, fever and headaches. Severe strains can be fatal in 10 per cent of cases. It is caught through shared eating or toilet facilities or from body fluids, and it has initial symptoms similar to influenza.

Environmental health officers believe it unlikely a person with typhoid could transmit the disease unless he was unhygienic.

## Fuller, legal eagle of poetry, is dead

By ROSE YOUNG

ROY FULLER, the poet, novelist and autobiographer who died yesterday aged 79, will be remembered as the man of letters who was 50 years with the Woolwich.

Just as Kenneth Grahame is forever linked with the Bank of England, Trollope with the Post Office, and Philip Larkin with Hull library, Roy Fuller's distinctive claim in the halls of literary fame is that he managed to double a successful literary career with his duties as a solicitor for the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, to whose board he was eventually promoted.

He did not just write verse. He also turned in a monthly 1,500 words of "legal notes" for the *Building Societies Gazette*. Both sides of his career were reflected in the books he published in 1949. One was *Epitaphs and Occasions*, a new book of poems. The other was *Questions and Answers in Building Society Law and Practice*.

He was already vice-president of the Building Societies' Association and chairman of their legal group when in 1968 he was elected professor of

poetry at Oxford and in 1970 was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

As professor of poetry he broke with tradition by refusing to deliver the Cretaceous oration in Latin. In the manner of a very conscientious, hard-working professional he succeeded in making the oration sound like an end-of-term report with punctilious footnotes such as: "We remember here that the Duke of Windsor was a Magdalen man."

In middle life Fuller, with characteristically self-defensive irony, wrote his own obituary in verse: "Quite often he was heard to babble 'Poets should be intelligible' Or 'What determines human fate' Is the class structure of the state' Or 'Freud and Marx and Dickens found — And so do I — souls not profound'."

He leaves one question unanswered: why did the Woolwich choose to advertise itself with that smiling girl?

Obituary, page 14

## Scrabble players take on the world

Forty-eight walking lexicons from 20 countries assembled in London yesterday for the first world Scrabble championships (Robin Young writes).

The definitive play on words is being staged at the New Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, Holborn, over four days. The competition is organised on a round robin and knockout basis similar to that used for World Cup football.

The finals, between the two top players on Monday, the last day, are expected to be relayed live by closed circuit television with a goggle-eyed and breathless commentary supplied by the television personality and Scrabble enthusiast, Gyles Brandreth.

Britain's team of eight includes the reigning UK national Scrabble champion, Phil Appleby from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

## Hope for boxer

Doctors treating the boxer Michael Watson said last night they believed there were some signs of improvement. Watson, aged 26, is still in a critical condition in St Bartholomew's hospital, London, with a brain injury after his defeat last Saturday by Chris Eubank. However, doctors said that if he continued to improve in the next 24 hours, he might be gradually taken off anaesthetics.

## Bell funeral

Penny Bell, the businesswoman found murdered in a west London car park on June 6, was buried yesterday after a funeral service near her home in Denham, Buckinghamshire. Her husband, Alistair, and her two children, Matthew, aged 11, and Lauren, aged nine, led the procession of more than 50 mourners, including detectives hunting her killer, to the graveside at St Mary's Parish Church.

## £1.3m auction

An 89-lot collection of extravagantly ornate belle époque furniture weighing three tons and shipped specially by Sotheby's from New York to sell in London made £1.3m yesterday. Sotheby's had hoped the collection would entice European and Middle Eastern buyers and had estimated it could make between £3 million and £4 million.

ALL BOX NO. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
BOX NO. DEPT.  
P.O. BOX 484,  
VIRGINIA STREET,  
WAPPING,  
LONDON,  
E1 9DD.

# THE MORE YOU WANT THE LESS WE WANT.

RATES FOR LARGER BORROWERS		
£60,000 - £99,995	10.8%	11.5% APR
Over £100,000	10.5%	11.1% APR

The Halifax Apex mortgage offers special rates for anyone borrowing over £60,000.

To find out more about less, call us on 0800 500 235 or drop into your nearest branch.



Get a little extra help.

HOME LOANS MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE ON YOUR PROPERTY. RATES AND APR'S QUOTED ARE VARIABLE. DIFFERENT TERMS APPLY TO NORTHERN IRELAND. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS FROM HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY ON 0800 500 235.  
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

## The wicked lusts of John Knox

By KERRY GILL

JOHN Knox, the puritanical theologian and founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, whose gloomy shadow still falls over much of the Scottish psyche and temperament, was a ladies' man who formed an unusual relationship with his mother-in-law. It has emerged more than 400 years after his death.

A revisionist view of the ranting preacher, who berated the ungodly with cries of prophetic doom, is to be published next month by the Rev Stewart Lamont, the writer, broadcaster and journalist. Mr. Lamont has overturned the image of Knox as a tyrannical misogynist and has produced evidence that he had a string of female devotees and may even have carried on an adulterous affair with Elizabeth Bowes, Sir Roger Aske's daughter, who married Richard Bowes, captain of Northam Castle near Berwick on Tweed.

Mrs. Bowes gave her husband no fewer than 15 children. She first heard Knox preach at Berwick accompanied by her fifth daughter, Marjory. The women, according to Mr. Lamont, fell under his spell. Although by then aged 45, Mrs. Bowes was still sexually attractive in spite of having had 15 confinements. A curious ménage à trois

developed that culminated later in Knox marrying Marjory. Knox's many detractors have claimed the marriage was a front for his dalliance with Mrs. Bowes, although the couple had several children.

Knox and Mrs. Bowes exchanged letters for more than ten years. In one letter it is plain that he was sexually interested by Mrs. Bowes, although it is unclear whether physical relations took place. He wrote: "In body you think I am no adulterer; let so be, but the heart is infected with foul lusts and will albeit I lament never same kill. Externally I commit no adultery but my wicked heart lusts itself and cannot be restrained from vain imaginings."

Knox, clearly fond of both women, later wrote to Mrs. Bowes before his betrothal to Marjory: "Call to your mind what I did standing at the cupboard in Alnwick; in very deed I thought that no creature had been tempted as I was." But Mr. Lamont argues that if physical intimacy had taken place the marriage to Marjory could not have survived. He says that Knox was a caring man who remained loyal to his circle of women.

*The Swordbearer, John Knox and the European Reformation* (Hodder and Stoughton, £7.99)

حکومت الاسلام



## Charter will allow school inspections by private firms

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

FREELANCE school inspectors will have to be approved by the government's own inspectors under the Parent's Charter announced by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday.

Private companies would compete with local authority inspectors for approval to conduct 6,000 school inspections a year. Inspection teams would include at least one person not working in education and would be expected to seek parents' views in preparing their report.

School governors would be provided with £70 million of the £135 million given to local education authorities for their inspection and advice services to appoint an inspection team. Reports would be provided every four years and governors would have to give parents a summary and explain the action they were taking in the light of any recommendations.

Mr Clarke said the cost of each inspection would range from about £6,000 for a small rural primary school to £30,000-plus for a large comprehensive. He rejected Labour claims that he was reducing the government inspectors' power by cutting the number of inspectors from 480 to 175 and introducing non-educationists. The government will keep a register of those allowed to lead trained inspection teams and will set standards of inspection. Those on the register will themselves be inspected and will be removed if they fail to meet agreed standards.

Labour claims that poor schools could enter into an agreement with privatised inspectors to provide a glowing report were dismissed by Mr Clarke. "Most governors are not going to seek out

inspectors to give them a passy ride. It is disparaging of governors, which include many parents," he said.

Mr Clarke said the charter would guarantee parents an annual written report on their children, performance tables providing comprehensive information on all schools in the area and an annual report from the governors listing examination and national curriculum test results, truancy rates, how many secondary school pupils go on to university and college or into employment, the school budget and procedures for election of parent governors.

"For too long education has not been open enough to the ordinary person. The operation of schools has been a closed shop that can only be entered by those already inside. Education has been a mystery to the vast majority of people."

"Lack of accountability and lack of information has left parents ill equipped to make real, informed choices about their children's education. I intend to take the mystery out of education. It already happens in independent schools but we want the ordinary parent to have the same feeling that they have the same choice in the state system and the same accountability that previously could only be bought."

Independent schools will continue to make their own arrangements for school inspections, but they will be expected to follow the charter in all other respects.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "No-body will understand how cutting 300 of the 500-strong inspectorate is going to raise standards." The government's proposals, he said, were not so much a parent's charter as a "poor schools' charter" by which failing schools could be locked in to a cycle of decline.

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said the charter was "pre-election gimmickry" and that parents were fed up with charters filled with empty promises. "Parents want good quality, well-resourced school buildings for their children - the Parent's Charter doesn't promise this," he said.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the charter was a smokescreen. "While offers of more and more information flow from ministers, class sizes, the real key to improving children's education, are rising."

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, said: "Pandering to parents for votes is a disservice to parents and children."

Leading article, page 13



Multiple collision: the 38-tonne lorry after it slid from the M25's clockwise lanes and smashed into oncoming traffic in the rush hour

## Five killed in six-vehicle crash on M-way

By BILL FROST

FIVE people were killed and six were injured after a multiple collision in rain involving an articulated lorry on the M25 yesterday near Brentwood, Essex.

A 38-tonne lorry, which had been travelling on the clockwise carriageway, crashed through the central reservation into oncoming traffic using the anti-clockwise lanes

just before 7am. Police said six vehicles were involved in the collision: the lorry, a pick-up truck, a Ford Transit van and three cars. Three of the dead were in the truck, the other two in a Ford Scorpio.

Last night police said the dead included a father and son travelling with a friend in the pick-up, and two brothers in the Scorpio. None was named.

Roger Paramor, the Essex chief fire officer, criticised

motorists for driving too fast. "I just wish we could put people who drive too fast into the cab of a fire engine going to an accident like this and let them witness the sort of things we have to deal with," he said.

The driver of the lorry, who suffered serious injuries, was stable in Oldchurch hospital, Romford, last night. Another person with serious injuries was taken to Harold Wood hospital. Three adults and a

child, who suffered minor injuries, were also admitted to Harold Wood. Eight-mile jams formed as police closed the motorway.

In London, two people died in separate accidents on Thursday night which police said may have been caused by treacherous driving conditions. The victims were both front-seat passengers. Scotland Yard said that rain and a build-up of oil and rubber had

made conditions particularly dangerous.

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, last night called for further restrictions on lorry drivers' hours in the wake of the M25 collision. In a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, Mr Prescott said: "It is imperative that a study conference is called so that experts can begin to tackle the terrible problems of the M25."

## Lockerbie residents can sue

By KERRY GILL

PAN AM failed yesterday to stop 385 Lockerbie residents from suing the airline in American courts over claims of distress after 270 people were killed when terrorists blew up flight 103 over the town almost three years ago.

Lord Kirkwood, sitting at the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court, rejected the move by Pan Am, the operators of the airline, to obtain an interim interdict that would halt the action. The residents suing the airline were all in the town at the time of the bombing. All have claimed that they suffered either injury, loss or damage and that they suffered emotional distress.

The judge's decision means

that the residents are now free to mount their action in America, which could result in their achieving higher levels of compensation than in Scotland.

However, Pan Am's lawyers argued yesterday that this might not necessarily be the case. Michael Jones, QC, for Pan Am, said that, even if a successful action was taken in America, Scottish law would be applied when deciding liability and damages.

All the 385 named residents, as well as up to 30 medical advisers and expert witnesses, would be forced to travel to America to give evidence. Mr Jones said Pan Am believed that its legal costs in a US hearing would be about \$7 million compared

with an estimated total of \$300,000 in Scotland.

Proceedings in Scotland would be much shorter than in America, where they could last two or three years. Mr Jones said that Scotland was the natural forum for the proceedings. "Justice can be obtained in Scotland at substantially less inconvenience than in the United States," he said.

Lyall Mudie, one of the lawyers representing the residents, said many felt that it was outrageous for Pan Am to have sought an interdict without informing them.

The residents are expected to begin the legal process in America on October 8.

## Cathedral village sets up £500,000 appeal

By RONALD FAUX

CARTMEL in Cumbria is a village of 600 people with a cathedral to support. Yesterday it launched a trust fund to raise £500,000 for the 12th-century priory church, known as the cathedral of the Lakes, one of the few monasteries to escape destruction during the Reformation.

The Rev Christopher Atkinson, vicar of Cartmel, said that the village attracted 100,000 visitors a year. It is especially popular with retired clergy, who settle into the permanent retreat of the village.

However, visitors gave an average of only 15p each to help run the priory, Mr Atkin-

son said. "It is a wonderful building which still dominates the village in the way the old monasteries did," he said. However, it put heavy demands on the local community.

He said the object of the trust would be to maintain the teaching function of the church, to encourage and present music and to link the Anglican religious communities in Britain to perpetuate its monastic foundation.

"We do not want to become more commercial, because people come here for peace and to pray," he said.

Mr Salisbury, a student, said that he was 21 and inexperienced when he went to the Popham home at Market Harborough in 1974, when Mr Beck was in charge. After a confrontation with a child, he had wept, and Mr Beck had comforted him in his room.

Mr Salisbury said that Mr Beck told him to express his feelings because the children would be able to manipulate him in the area of sex. On that occasion, Mr Beck had kissed him and touched his genitals. Sessions with Mr Beck had developed into ritual masturbation until eventually Mr Beck had assaulted him. The trial continues on Monday.

Leading article, page 13

## Scrabble players take on the world

Forty-eight walking into London yesterday for the first world Scrabble championships (Robin Williams).

The definitive play words is being staged at New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, from 28 to 30 September. The event is a round robin and knock-out tournament. The final, between the top players on Monday last day, are expected to be relayed live by closed-circuit television with a pay-per-view and pay-per-playback service. The event is a round robin and knock-out tournament. The final, between the top players on Monday last day, are expected to be relayed live by closed-circuit television with a pay-per-view and pay-per-playback service.

## Hope for box

Doctors treating the boxer Watson said they believed some signs of improvement. Watson, aged 26, is a professional boxer. He has been in a coma since he was hit by a car in London. Doctors are hopeful that he will wake up soon.

## Bell funeral

Funeral service for the late Mrs Bell, who died of cancer, will be held at St. Mary's Church, London. The service will be at 11am on Monday.

## £1.3m auction

Auction of the contents of the late Mrs Bell's home, including furniture, paintings, and other items, will be held at Sotheby's, London. The auction will start at 10am on Tuesday.

## ALL BOX NO. 10

Box No. 10, Dept. P.O. Box 404, Virginia Street, Wapping, London, E1 9DD.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Rugby World Cup special

Free with The Sunday Times tomorrow, a 16-page, full-colour complete guide to all the fixtures and all the

television timings of Rugby's greatest tournament, plus features and expert analysis.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

PLUS Part 2 of 1000 Makers of the 20th century, the partwork series free with the Magazine.

From C to E: from the gangster Al Capone to the drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, from Charles Calverley - who developed the tuberculosis vaccine - to Joseph F. Engelberger - the father of industrial robotics.

## Jaguar adapts pilots' night sights for safer driving

FROM KEVIN EASON IN TURIN

NIGHT-vision sights used by Tornado fighter pilots to bomb targets in the dark during the Gulf War are being adapted by Jaguar car engineers to make driving safer.

The remarkable devices will allow drivers to see clearly in thick fog or find their way along unlit streets using a thermal-imaging camera to seek out the heat outlines of pedestrians and other vehicles. The sophisticated night sights were among the most successful uses of technology in the Gulf conflict.

Jaguar engineers yesterday demonstrated that the system developed at a cost of billions of pounds for the defence industry would have a successful peacetime application by helping to save lives on Britain's roads.

All objects emit some degree of heat, which the on-board camera picks up and converts into a black and white picture. Jaguar is leading a European group developing systems to project the thermal image on to the windscreen so that the driver can see the road ahead clearly, even picking out pedestrians 400 yards away on the darkest streets.

Jaguar's night sight is part of wide-ranging research by a consortium of European car and component makers combined in a project called

Prometheus. The British team includes Rolls-Royce, Lucas, Pilkington and Jaguar, who have joined forces with continental companies such as Mercedes-Benz, Saab and BMW.

The consortium said yesterday that accident rates throughout the EC could be cut by 30 per cent and traffic congestion by 20 per cent if the technology they were developing was adopted quickly. They emphasised that their hi-tech devices were not the stuff of a Dan Dare adventure but would be available within three years.

The project is the biggest example of industrial co-operation across national boundaries, but Prometheus executives admitted it was inspired by the need to combat infiltration of Japanese electronics.

Their goal is to make an "intelligent car" packed with electronic systems capable of interacting with the driver, other vehicles and an information network built into the road system. They also want pilot studies in 40 European cities, including London, Birmingham, Cambridge and Southampton, in which to study automatic traffic systems capable of controlling the rate at which vehicles enter the city, thus avoiding congestion.

The most exciting dev-

elopment however will be seen inside the car, which will have computers to help the driver to avoid errors that cause up to 70 per cent of all road crashes.

There could be some motorists whose ability to drive will be questioned by the car. Ford engineers at Dunton, Essex, say they will have a computer capable of telling a motorist when he or she is too tired or too drunk to drive. The machine measures the rate of eye blinking and the car's movements to establish whether anything is wrong and will tell the driver to pull over and rest.

That equipment will be on trial next year, among a variety of electronic equipment to be fitted to the dashboard of cars by the end of the decade.

However, engineers are worried that array of on-board guidance and warning systems will only serve to baffle motorists, many of whom are incapable of working a video recorder.

Jim Randle, Jaguar's director of vehicle and concepts engineering, said: "We can produce the technology but the biggest part of our research is to discover whether it helps the driver. That will take some time but we are confident we can make roads safer and less congested by using the results of our research."

# The banks must like small businesses. They're doing everything they can to keep them that way.

## NATIONWIDE ASSET RESERVE INTEREST RATES

BALANCE £s	GROSS PA	NET PA
£100,000 AND OVER	10.10%	7.58%
£25,000 - £99,999	9.90%	7.43%
£10,000 - £24,999	9.30%	6.98%
£5,000 - £9,999	8.90%	6.68%
£2,000 - £4,999	7.40%	5.55%

A lot of banks think it's perfectly acceptable to make charges even when your business account is comfortably in credit. And if they design to give interest on funds in your deposit account, it's often at low rates. If all this sounds a little unfair, that's because it is. But don't worry, you now have an alternative. Asset Reserve. Nationwide's new business investment account. We don't make charges for normal transactions. Require notice to move funds. Or penalise you for making withdrawals. What's more, we pay top rates of interest on your company's deposits, and give you instant access with a passbook. For more information, call Nationwide free on 0800 335599, or simply return the coupon. Then who knows, your business might find it as easy to make money as the banks do.

Send the coupon to Nationwide, Freeport, PO Box 1027, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6GX.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Nationwide**  
The Nation's Building Society

Interest will normally be paid at the net rate which is the rate after the deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds an account holder's liability to tax. Interest may be paid at the gross rate which is the rate without deduction of tax at basic rate to account holders who are eligible and register that they do not expect to be liable to income tax. If the account balance falls below £2,000, interest will be paid at 2.90% gross p.a. (2.18% net p.a.). All rates quoted are variable. Interest is calculated daily and will be paid quarterly on the last day of March, June, September and December. Rates correct at time of going to press. Withdrawals subject to branch limits. Account available from 5th August 1991. Nationwide Anglia Building Society, Chatterfield House, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1V 6PW.



# Doubts in Brussels cloud approval for City airport

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN AND MICHAEL DYNES

THE regeneration of London Docklands and the east London corridor received fresh impetus yesterday when Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, announced the government's approval of proposals to extend the London City airport and to build a bridge across the Thames in east London.

The extension of the airport runway from 1,030 metres to 1,199 metres will enable jet aircraft to use it and will open it up to more destinations in Europe. The river crossing will help to improve a notoriously congested part of the

road network, giving access to the rest of the national road system and the Channel ports and tunnel.

At the same time, Mr Heseltine rejected a proposal for a heliport on the north bank of the Thames in the City of London, on the grounds that the environmental disadvantages outweighed its benefits.

However, the announcements were overshadowed by the European Commission's determination to carry out a full environmental impact study into the river crossing, which could delay the project

for years and possibly prevent it from going ahead at all.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment commissioner, has drafted a letter to the environment and transport secretaries, which has not yet been sent. Under EC law, receipt of a formal letter of complaint from Signor Ripa di Meana would signal the initiation of legal proceedings against the government, which could ultimately result in Britain being taken to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for violating EC directives.

Mr Heseltine said yesterday

that he had not received a letter and could not be expected to take it into account.

The Docklands schemes were approved by Mr Heseltine and Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, in line with recommendations from government inspectors after public enquiries into each case.

Mr Heseltine said yesterday that the issues were of considerable importance and the decision to go ahead would have a big impact on the development of Docklands, Thamesmead and the area along the east London corridor.

The box girder bridge, recommended ahead of an alternative and admittedly superior design, will be 1,640 metres long and carry two three-lane carriageways. The main span of 240 metres will be the longest of its type in the UK and only 20 metres shorter than the world's longest concrete box girder bridge, Gateway Bridge in Australia. The environment and transport secretaries accepted that the design lacked the splendour of the alternative, but said it would be "an impressive box girder design of high visual quality and be distinctive in its setting".

They also believed that to consider the alternative, a Spanish design by Santiago Calatrava, would cause unacceptable delay to a scheme of great importance in helping to regenerate the area.

Explaining his rejection of the proposals for a heliport by Cannon Street railway bridge, Mr Heseltine said that it would cause substantial harm through noise and visual impact and that the economic advantages were not sufficient. He recognised the demand for a heliport serving central London and has asked the transport secretary to study alternative and more suitable sites.

David Hardy, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, welcomed the decisions, saying they were good news for business in Docklands, the City and east London.

## Ancient wood is cut in two

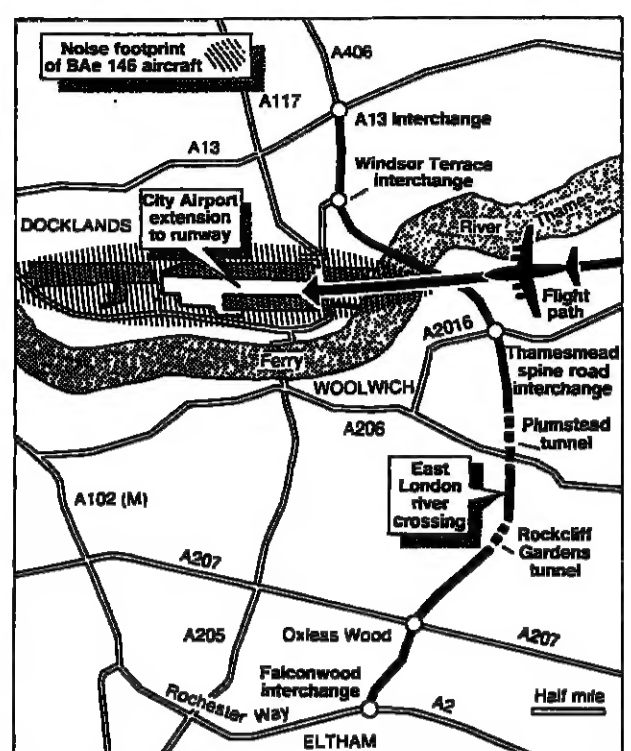
LONDON'S last remaining stretch of ancient woodland will be sliced in two by the approach roads needed for the new east London river crossing announced yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary (Michael Dynes writes).

The southern approach road, which will link the A2 at Falconwood with the A13 at Beckton, north of the Thames, will cut a 120ft corridor through a corner of the 8,000-year-old Oxleas wood near Greenwich in southeast London, which has been designated a site of special scientific interest.

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, defended the decision on the grounds that the new crossing at Gallion's Reach would relieve congestion on existing river crossings in east London, improve access to the Docklands area, and provide a coherent road network for long-distance traffic moving around London.

The new box girder bridge will be 1,640 metres long, with two three-lane carriageways. The central span of 240 metres will make the bridge the longest of its type in Britain.

The decision was welcomed last night by Edmund King, secretary of Movement for London. "It will help bridge the gap with Europe through better road and air links," he



said. For the local residents the announcement was a disappointment. Barry Gray, the chairman of People Against the River Crossing, said: "The decision makes me angry. I am not surprised, because of the way the enquiry was conducted. It was obvious from the outset that the government was not in-

terested in a fair hearing." Roger Higman, the transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, believes the decision violates the EC's 1988 environmental impact assessment directive, requiring exhaustive environmental evaluations before approval.

Weekend Times, page 13



Putting on a brave face: Abigail Cole, aged two, whose hand was amputated at one of Britain's leading hospitals by mistake. Abigail, of Framlingham, Suffolk, had been admitted to Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, in August for an operation to remove a cyst from her brain (Nick Nuttall writes).

The error occurred when a tube dispensing antibiotics was fixed to an artery rather than a vein, pumping damaging antibiotics directly into the hand tissue. A hospital spokesman said yesterday: "She needed an injection of antibiotic. Unfortunately, by accident it was administered via an arterial line. Following attempts to improve the condition, the hand had to be amputated. It should not have happened." An investigation has been carried

out at the hospital, but no action has been taken. Abigail's mother, Dawn, aged 28, said: "She is not too bad in herself, although she's a bit self-conscious about her hand. It is just such a shame she will have to go through her entire life with this. I am very bitter." Abigail will be fitted with an artificial hand. The hospital has advised her parents to seek compensation.

## Manns get help offer over cash plight

The freed hostage Jack Mann and his wife, Sunnie, face a bleak financial future with almost no income. The extent of their money problems became clear yesterday as the prime minister offered government help for moving home from Beirut to Cyprus.

To ease their immediate plight, the couple are telling their story to a Sunday newspaper for a rumoured £50,000. A family friend confirmed that Mr Mann, a Battle of Britain veteran, does not receive a full pension from the RAF or any money from his former job as an airline pilot. Mrs Mann lived frugally in a small flat during his captivity.

The Prince of Wales sent Mr Mann a "personal written message". Buckingham Palace said John Major offered help in a telephone call.

## Phone warning

Police have cautioned a man of 19, understood to be of low intelligence, over a £1,300 bill run up on the telephone of Rose Stamp, aged 81. British Telecom has dropped its demand that she pay for chatline calls made after she had left her flat at Smeethwick, West Midlands, due to ill health.

## Research ban

The Home Office is banning elderly scientists from animal experiments after one aged 89 caused unnecessary suffering. No one over 70 will be able to hold a project licence. Personal licences will end when holders reach 70, and come under annual review.

## Gas blast

A man was flown to a burns unit after a gas explosion damaged a block of flats at a Shepherd's Bush, west London. Police believe a gas meter may have been tampered with. Officers were understood to be interviewing three youths.

## Tunnel strike

All 600 electricians at the Channel tunnel workings went on strike yesterday. Earlier, some lost pay for being late after a union meeting. The men are said to be unhappy about pay and conditions.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TWO FREE COLOUR SUPPLEMENTS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**RUGBY WORLD CUP**

1000

MAKERS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

**TOMORROW**

هكذا من الاصل

Disco  
New En  
with



## Brussels plan would require salmonella tests on all chickens

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community is discussing a plan to introduce compulsory testing of poultry for salmonella in all 12 member states.

The new regulation, proposed by Brussels, would go further than existing British law by requiring the testing of broilers — chickens raised for eating — as well as egg-laying birds.

Testing of egg-laying flocks started in Britain in March 1989 after the salmonella-in-eggs furore involving Edwina Currie, the former junior health minister. The government wanted similar measures introduced by other EC countries but saw no need to include broilers.

Under the proposals, broilers would have to be tested for salmonella enteritidis and salmonella typhimurium when a day old and again three weeks before slaughter. The tests would be conducted on pooled faecal samples from up to 60 birds. If infection were found, no birds from that flock could be sold as fresh meat. It would have to be cooked or undergo some form of disinfecting treatment.

Only about 3 per cent of all birds are thought to be infected with salmonella enteritidis. But infection is easily spread in modern slaughtering and processing plants where birds are decapitated, eviscerated, plucked and washed in close proximity on conveyor belt systems. The proposals should reduce the number of infected birds reaching consumers.

The agriculture ministry said yesterday: "We do want to see a level playing field in Europe. At present, eggs from untested flocks abroad can be sold in this country and that is unsatisfactory. But we think the extension of compulsory testing to broiler flocks is superfluous and should not form part of a common policy for Europe."

John Roberts, senior poultry adviser to the National Farmers' Union, said: "This seems to us the wrong way to tackle the problem. The right way is to test the breeder flocks and feedingstuffs, which is what we are already doing in Britain. Testing birds before slaughter is not foolproof because it takes nearly three weeks to get a result."

There was a guarded welcome, however, from the United Kingdom Egg Producers' Association. Keith Pullman, its secretary, said: "We have always said it was wrong that broiler flocks should escape rigorous testing. But broilers from infected flocks could end up competing with our 'spent' hens on the processed meat market."

The proposal would also change the testing requirements for egg-laying flocks. There would be no requirement for compulsory slaughter, and hence no compensation. Instead, eggs from

infected flocks would have to be pasteurised and sold to the processing trade.

Richard North, a freelance environmental health consultant who advises the egg industry, said an extra 1,500 civil servants might be needed to carry out the tests and supervise infected flocks, costing £60 million. "The effect of the tests is likely to be marginal and the money could be better spent by enforcing proper hygiene rules in catering and food manufacturing premises," he said.

There are 70 million broilers in Britain on 1,900 poultry farms, 55 per cent of which have more than 100,000 birds, and 32 million layers on 32,000 farms. Up to last Sunday, the agriculture ministry had slaughtered 2.58 million egg-laying birds and paid out £3.96 million in compensation. Although cases of salmonella enteritidis in humans have declined, the efficacy of the slaughter policy is disputed.



Back in the cockpit: Betty Heycock in the restored de Havilland Comet at White Waltham yesterday and, right, as the plane was in 1937

## Carefree record flyers reunited

By RAY CLANCY

THE woman who set the record for a flight from London to Cape Town in 1937 has been reunited with her old plane at White Waltham aerodrome, Berkshire, after it was restored by retired British Aerospace engineers.

Betty Heycock, aged 85, was one of a crew of two that flew the de Havilland Comet from Croydon to Cape Town and back in five days, 17 hours and 28 minutes, beating Amy Johnson's one-way record to South Africa.

Her fellow pilot, Flying Officer Arthur Clouston, wrote in his report at the time: "Mrs Kirby-Green [as she was then known] proved

a plucky companion and was able to keep a course well for considerable periods by day and night."

She began flying when she was 30, after being bet £100 that she could not get her wings and fly to Paris within two weeks. She pawned her fur coat to pay for the £25 insurance on a borrowed Gypsy Moth, and completed her first solo flight abroad on July 22, 1937. "I felt that such a flight should be no more than motoring from London to Brighton," she says in her new book *Put it Down to Experience*.

The restored plane will be housed in the Shuttleworth collection in Bedfordshire.



## Church musicians pipe up for organists

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England's ancient and renowned musical tradition is being threatened by a shortage of organists, according to its leading musicians.

An "adopt an organist" scheme, which urged parishes to encourage aspiring organists as apprentices, has not been taken up by any church. According to a survey by one archdeaconry published in yesterday's *Church Times*, only one organist in five is under the age of 40. Churches are instead turning to new technology, singing hymns accompanied by cassette tapes while organs, often restored at great cost and after lengthy appeals, gather dust.

Leading organists have formed a committee to launch the National Organ Teachers Encouragement Scheme (Notes) in an attempt to address the problem. Anne Marsden Thomas, organist at St Giles Cripplegate church, London, said many would-be organists had wanted to learn the organ, but were denied access to churches to practise.

Nicholas Danby, head of organ studies at the Royal Academy of Music, one of the organisers of Notes, said cathedrals and large churches were well supplied with skilled organists. "But in the smaller conurbations there is a serious shortage. Church music is part of our cultural heritage. Unless it is looked after and enhanced, the whole tradition will collapse."

The Archdeacon of Wiltshire, Ven John Smith, predicted that "a problem of mammoth proportions" will hit the churches within the next 20 years unless more is done to recruit young organists.

## Bar puts pressure for reform on Baker

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker will face calls for immediate action to reform the criminal justice system when he gives the keynote address at the annual Bar Conference which opens in London today.

The criminal justice system is again under scrutiny after the home secretary on Thursday referred to the Court of Appeal the cases of two men found guilty of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock in the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985.

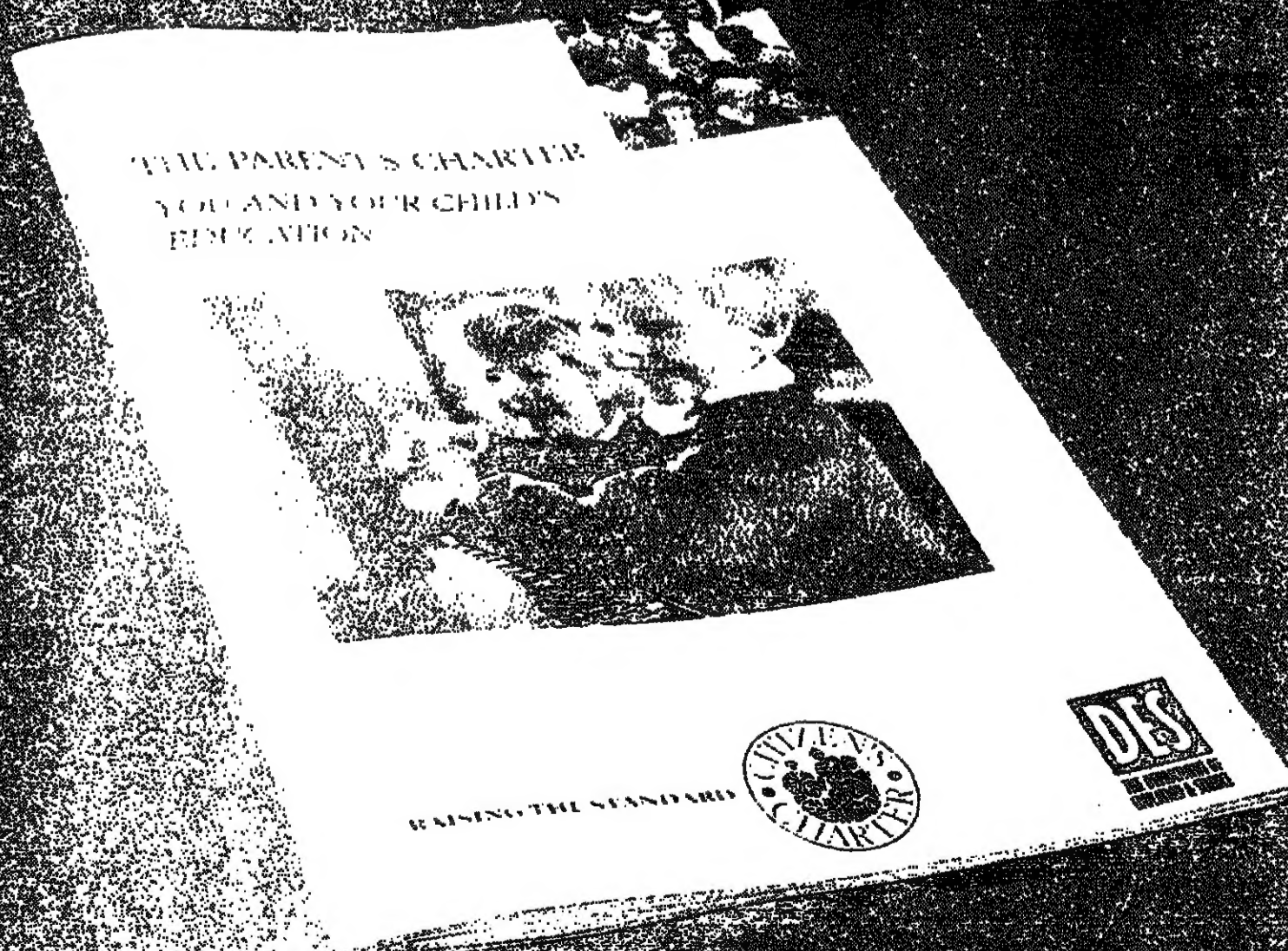
Yesterday Anthony Scrivener, QC, the Bar chairman, said: "As barristers we are at the sharp end of law and order, yet the Home Office never consults us on proposals for reform."

The setting up of a royal commission on criminal justice is welcome, the Bar believes, but not in itself an adequate response to failings in the system. It is pressing first for a change so that defendants cannot be convicted on evidence of their confession to the police alone. Second, it wants the Criminal Appeals Act 1968 amended so that when fresh evidence emerges, the convicted person has a right for it to go before a jury.

The council's "cabinet" — its general management committee — has also thrown its weight behind a ministry of justice, with responsibility for law and order being brought under one government department and one minister.

The two-day conference is expected to be attended by several hundred barristers as well as members of the judiciary. There will be about 50 addresses on subjects ranging from race discrimination law to human rights in the context of the European Convention on Human Rights.

TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION, DO A LITTLE HOMEWORK OF YOUR OWN.



The Parent's Charter is designed to help you help your child.

The Charter sets out your responsibilities, rights and choices.

You have a right to information about the education that's available.

You have a right to know the kind of education you can expect and how you can influence it.

You have a right to be heard if you think things are going wrong.

The Charter will help you become a more active partner with your school. Working with the teachers to help your child to learn.

Your child will repay the interest you show with interest.

For your copy of the Parent's Charter freephone 0800 44 42 42 now or cut out the coupon.

Post to: Parent's Charter, Freepost (BS528/81), Bristol BS3 3YY.  
Or telephone free on 0800 44 42 42 (24 hours).

Name Mr Mrs Miss Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child in primary school ☐ Or secondary school ☐ Or no longer at school ☐  
We send you further information in the future relating to your child's education. YES ☐ NO ☐

Discover New England with Virgin

New England Fly Drive £249

Boston Breaks (3 nights Park Plaza) £299

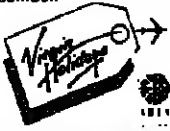
Cape Cod Breaks (3 nights Queen Anne Inn) £289

White Mountain Breaks (3 nights Indian Head) £269

One week's car hire included with Fly Drive. Hotel and car included with all breaks. Departures 1st November - 14th December.

Prices based on 2 people sharing.

PHONE TODAY 0293 617181



THE PARENT'S CHARTER. PLEASE READ IT. IT'S AN EDUCATION.





## WE STARTED A CUT BELOW THE REST.

When it came to selecting books for a journey, Victorian travellers had to contend with novels that came in three volume editions and cost thirty shillings. A dickens of a price.

This is why we decided to sell the books in single volumes called "Yellowbacks". They cost only two shillings each. An impressive twenty eight shillings less than the heavyweight three volume sets, a cut below to be proud of. And Victorian customers were left with enough change to buy one of our travelling rugs and candles to read by.

**WH SMITH**

EXCLUSIVE  
BOOKS

THE COUNTRY'S BEST SELLER.

We have continued the tradition of good quality books at the lowest prices with our own WH Smith exclusive range.

The list of titles is myriad in both fact and fiction. Recipe books photographed to stimulate your appetite, encyclopaedias to stretch your mind and gardening books to bend your back. Helen Forrester, Gerald Seymour and Virginia Andrews are a few of the names to stir your imagination. Perhaps some of the subject matter would raise a Victorian eye-brow or two but the prices certainly wouldn't.

هكذا من الاجل

Refit

"You can't  
read me, can  
you?"

"What I hear  
and they are  
not."

"You never  
phone Bill."



# Refit brings hope to the 'towers of terror'

Security cameras and video phones have revitalised a south London estate where fear once ruled the residents' lives, writes Lin Jenkins

THREE tower blocks, refurbished after two elderly residents died when they barricaded themselves into their home because they were afraid of burglars, were handed over to residents yesterday.

The final touch to the refurbishments on Grantham Road estate, in Stockwell, south London, will be a memorial seat to the couple whose fate prompted a vigorous campaign by their neighbours to restore the homes.

Victor and Audrey Johnson died in a fire in their flat in Pinter House in January 1989. Firemen could not rescue them in time because they could not hammer their way through the door, which was covered by a steel grille. The couple were overcome by smoke.

For years Mr Johnson, aged 57, and his wife, aged 54, had seen the high-rise blocks decay and become places of fear, like many others throughout the country. Vandalism and violence rose to the point where they barricaded themselves all too successfully against the world outside.

A neighbour, aged 23, was jailed for their manslaughter. He had been found guilty of paying two teenagers £100 each to pour petrol through their letterbox and set it alight after the couple complained to him about playing his stereo too loudly. The two juveniles, who were injured when the petrol blew up in their faces, were each ordered to spend four and a half years in youth custody.

The tragedy prompted John Patten, the then Home Office minister, to visit the area and authorise improvements. Now, after the spending of nearly £3 million, the tenants hope their blocks will be a model for others.

Joyce Hooper, who has been instrumental in press-



Feeling of security: residents of the Grantham Road estate looking in on the new central control room and its video monitors, part of the estate's £3 million refurbishment

ing for the improvements, said: "They were formerly known as the towers of terror, and we will willingly shake that off now. The last three years has been like seeing a miracle being built."

Yesterday, as the contractors handed Pinter House, Arden House and Beckett House, with their 252 maisonettes, back to Lambeth council, the rear doors were locked and the new front entrances, with their sophisticated electronic security systems and a concierge, opened. The entry halls are an addition, built in a mock classical style which tends to emphasise the ugliness of the Sixties structure behind.

Each home has an entry-phone with a video link to the front door, and eight video cameras in the lifts and corridors are linked to the tenants' television sets, showing shots from four of

the cameras at a time, and rolling on every seven seconds.

Miss Hooper sat watching hers. "Oh look, there's Mrs Dale getting in the lift, and look at that man, he's picking his nose," she said.

In daylight hours, the gadget may provide some amusement, but its role in making the tenants feel safer in their homes is immeasurable. The pictures are watched from a central control room, and all are recorded and kept to help police should crime return to the estate.

Reinforced doors in steel frames have been fitted, at a cost of £1,000, to each maisonette. Originally, the tenants' association was told it could have new doors on 80 of the homes, but not all. "How could we possibly have chosen which?" asked Harry Mason, who has lived there for 21 years. The

change has seen the crime rate drop overnight. Corridors have been transformed from stark concrete and lighting has been improved throughout.

But it is the pride and determination of the residents which has done most to change the atmosphere. Miss Hooper and David Hirst cleaned the lifts and corridors of graffiti by hand and badgered others into hanging plants and pictures in the common parts. Still they get stolen, but at the moment, people are prepared to replace them.

Louisa Norfield said: "I've just had my last three plants taken and we know there are people around who will take things and not look after what is there. But we feel much safer and it is up to everyone to make it stay this way." It is a view which is common among the residents.



After the fire: the steel grille which barricaded the door of the Johnsons' home

## Civic head 'beaten up' after vote on jobs

The deputy lord mayor of Liverpool was beaten up on the order of a union boss, a jury was told yesterday. The attack was carried out, it was alleged, because it was wrongly thought that Trevor Smith, now lord mayor, had voted for council redundancies.

Ian Lowes, a General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union convener, ordered Walter Dunbar, aged 38, to "do" Mr Smith while all three were in a public house. Liverpool crown court was told. Mr Smith had tried to calm things when two councillors who had backed cuts were abused.

Mr Dunbar was alleged to have said: "I got told he voted for redundancies." He allegedly told police that he had acted in self-defence after Mr Smith came at him "ranting".

Mr Dunbar, of Fazakerley, Liverpool, denies assault causing actual bodily harm. The trial continues on Monday.

## Crash damages

Damages of £243,000 have been awarded to Anne Roberts, aged 33, of Thetford, Norfolk, against her husband Robert, declared by Mr Justice Otton "wholly to blame" for a car crash three years ago that has left her in a coma.

## Rival blinded

Julie Nickols, aged 22, of Hedgesford, Staffordshire, was jailed for five years for blinding a workmate, Dawn Masters, 23, with a broken glass because they were dating the same man. She denied, at Stafford crown court, causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

## Rail death

Steven Leathers, aged 16, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, who was killed last Saturday by a train on a crossing had been fleeing after being caught skylarking on a factory roof after a night out, an inquest was told. The inquest was adjourned.

## Out of season

Staff at Ford's clothes shop at Beeston, Nottingham, have taken down a Christmas tree after complaints that its early display trivialised Christmas.

"You can't always find a payphone when you need one, and they don't always work."

MR E WALTON, HALIFAX



"What I hate is them not turning up when they said they would."

MRS R GRAYLEY, SOUTH POLE



"I can never understand the charges on the phone bill."

MR J PARK, DUNDEE



"At any one time, at least 95% of them do work. In the last 12 months we've installed over 6,000, and we're currently installing over 20 new ones every working day."

ROBERT BEST, BT PAYPHONE ENGINEER



"We get to nearly 90% of line faults within one working day. And if we don't restore your service by the end of the next working day, you can claim a month's line rental for every extra day we're late, under our improved CUSTOMER SERVICE GUARANTEE SCHEME."

WARREN TERRY, BT CUSTOMER MAINTENANCE ENGINEER



"We can now offer 3 out of 4 customers the choice of itemised bills."

KIRSTY HENDERSON, BT BILLING ENQUIRIES OFFICER

We're turning the negatives into positives.

We're listening to you and turning the negatives into positives.

At every level of the company, BT is committed to providing you, our customer, with a world-class telecommunications service.

Continuously improving levels of service. Improved Guarantee Scheme. Easier ways to make enquiries, orders or complaints and am and pm appointments, to be introduced nationally by next spring. More choice and control

over the services you use, with options on prices and payments. Attention to your specific needs, at home and at work. Better value for money.

In order to read the full story about these improvements, call us free on 0800 800 824 and ask for a copy of THE BT COMMITMENT.

It sets down the full measure of our commitment to you, now and in the future and gives you a real set of standards by which to judge us.



CALL FREE 0800 800 824 ANYTIME



You're more than just a number.



# Palestinians braced to accept need for peace conference

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN leaders meeting in Algiers were last night poised to approve overwhelmingly Palestinian participation in next month's proposed Middle East peace conference. The move is expected to bring prospects of a settlement to the Middle East conflict closer and pave the way for James Baker, the United States Secretary of State, to complete details for the conference. Palestinian approval would mean that Mr Baker had secured the acceptance of all key parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict for an unprecedented dialogue.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a close

aide of Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, yesterday predicted "a big yes" from the 413 delegates of the Palestine National Council in spite of opposition from Palestinian radicals based in Damascus, who this week advocated the "military option" against Israel as the only alternative to capitulation. "The overwhelming majority are favourable to authorising the new executive committee to participate in the peace conference according to international legality," Mr Abu Sharif said.

The move is likely to im-

prove Mr Arafat's badly tarnished image in the West and among Arab states, after his disastrous support for Iraq in the Gulf war. But it also threatens to deepen the existing split between his supporters and the rejectionist Palestinian factions.

In spite of the predicted Palestinian approval, attendance at the conference will be conditional on what guarantees Washington is prepared to give on the status of Arab east Jerusalem — occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967 — the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks and a freeze on construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Israel insists that the status of Jerusalem is non-negotiable, that it will not halt settlement construction or give up occupied lands, and that it refuses to talk to Palestinians who are members of the PLO, or who live outside the West Bank or Gaza Strip. The Palestinians reject all the Israeli demands.

Mr Baker is expected to return to the region at the beginning of next month in order to bridge these last gaps and squeeze compromises from both the Israeli and Arab sides. Once that is completed, and each participant is given an American letter of assurance setting out the parameters of the negotiations, Washington and Moscow will issue formal invitations to the conference.

Although Moscow has until now remained the silent partner in the peace initiative, President Gorbachev said yesterday that he believed the talks would still go ahead next month. "We are acting on the basis of precisely such a time scale," he said after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt at the Kremlin. "I think this process is so essential, and we have come so close to it, that all sides understand their responsibility and are taking steps." Mr Mubarak predicted that the talks could continue for one or two years.

Shamir refusal: Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday ruled out a role in peace talks for Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal al-Husseini, two Palestinian leaders who could face prosecution for attending the PLO meeting in Algiers. Both have denied they were there. They are residents of east Jerusalem and Mr Shamir refuses to accept east Jerusalem residents or PLO members at the conference. (Reuters)



Tears of joy: surrogate mother Elvira Jordan is congratulated by her attorney, Richard Gilbert, after a Californian court ruled that she should share custody of her daughter Marissa, aged 16 months, with the girl's biological father. The Santa Ana court ruling

stunned Robert Moschetti, who contracted to father the child by artificial insemination before his marriage broke up (AP reports). The judge ignored a report by court-appointed experts that said Mr Moschetti, aged 35, should have sole custody of

Marissa. "I cannot comprehend why that expert report was not upheld... It's a huge mistake," Mr Moschetti said. Ms Jordan, aged 42, was jubilant: "I got my daughter back." The report had recommended only right of access visits for Ms Jordan.

## Iraq stalls over freeing UN team

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IRAQ continued to tease the United Nations yesterday by stalling on its promise to release the UN inspectors blockaded for four days in a Baghdad car park and raising new difficulties on the use of UN helicopters.

The Iraqis appeared to be trying to suck the United Nations into negotiations on the terms of mandatory security council resolutions, an Iraqi goal since the first UN response to the invasion of Kuwait. As one diplomat from a permanent council member put it: "It is a test of nerves and strength." The head of the UN weapons inspection team held hostage in Baghdad said there was no sign that Iraqi officials were ready to free them, despite the security council's agreement to provide Iraq with a joint log of documents removed.

"We've had absolutely no change and we've watched very closely for it," David Kay, the UN team leader, said by satellite telephone. "The guard force is the same, the attitude seems to be exactly the same. No improvement at all; it's very strange." At the same time, the security council was waiting to see if Iraq would retract a letter sent on Thursday night which appeared to reimpose Baghdad's original conditions on the use of helicopters by UN officials.

The letter said Iraq "reaffirms that the requirements it has already put forward have to be fulfilled." Even though the UN special commission to disarm Iraq plans

to fly the first helicopters on Sunday, the Iraqi letter said there should be no flights until the commission's chairman, Rolf Ekkeus, went to Baghdad to agree details. Mr Ekkeus has said he sees no reason to go to Baghdad until after agreement is reached.

The security council decided to ignore the inconvenient Iraqi letter, judging that it crossed with a message to Iraq from Mr Ekkeus about the arrangements for the first helicopter mission. But Western diplomats reiterated yesterday that, if Iraq refused to co-operate with UN inspection flights, America, Britain and France were still ready to use military pressure.

It was reported that the United States had been establishing a helicopter base in northeastern Saudi Arabia to support UN inspection missions inside Iraq. Washington had also drawn up a list of targets that allied planes could strike if Iraq persisted in its defiance of the United Nations. But *The New York Times* said the Bush administration had halted plans to send attack helicopters and additional warplanes to Saudi Arabia because of Saudi reservations.

The 44-member UN inspection team trapped outside the Iraqi atomic energy agency began making preparations yesterday to draw up a list of the documents they want to remove, which detail foreign companies' involvement in Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

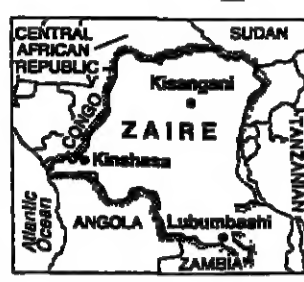
## Westerners raped in Zaire capital

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

TWO Western women were raped by looters rampaging through Zaire's capital over the past five days, the Belgian embassy said yesterday. A handful of Westerners were wounded, but none were killed while Kinshasa was being devastated by soldiers and civilians.

Médecins Sans Frontières had estimated that about 100 people had been killed and another 1,200 wounded in rioting. Yesterday, women scrambled for dog food and nuggets of maize meal left on the floor on Kinshasa's giant Metro supermarket as men helped themselves to the building's gutting and roof.

Although French and Belgian troops have restored a semblance of order in the capital, and in Kinsangani to the east and Lubumbashi to the south, the continued looting is a sign that Zaire remains in a power vacuum and its citizens in a desperate state. Aid agencies say that, even with the presence of some 1,800 foreign troops, mainly French and Belgian, in key



positions all over the country, the capital will be stricken by food shortages that could set off another bout of violent rioting with days.

Francis said yesterday that 40 tonnes of emergency food and medical supplies had arrived in neighbouring Congo, to be transported to Zaire. But the food, cooking oil, flour and rice, is a drop in the ocean for Kinshasa's three million residents.

On the Avenue Bokassa, named after the former self-styled emperor of the Central African Republic, people openly looted prefabricated Italian furniture into a van. Next door, where looters had driven brand new cars through

the show room windows, a graffiti artist with a sense of humour, summing up the free for all in the capital, had scrawled "Merci". But President Mobutu, who refused his military forces' demand that they receive a pay increase last Sunday, remains confident of his ability to maintain order in spite of warnings from soldiers that they would take to the streets and help themselves.

According to Western diplomats he received the credentials of Jean Coene, the new Belgian ambassador, at the height of the violence on Tuesday and said that all was calm. All Western diplomats contacted in Kinshasa yesterday, said they were at a loss to predict what Zaire's politicians could do to restore order. They said that the population had probably lost confidence in the ability of their rulers to govern the country.

Some speculated that President Mobutu, who according to Forbes magazine has salted away \$5 billion (£2.8 billion) of Zaire's national reserves in foreign bank accounts and owns a series of houses all

## Jail threat shadows film star's fiancé

New York — Elizabeth Taylor caused enough of a stir simply by announcing that her eighth marriage would be to a building worker, 20 years younger than herself, whom she met in a drug abuse clinic (James Bone writes).

Now it has emerged that her husband-to-be, Larry Fortensky, faces an old warrant for his arrest which carries a maximum sentence of a year in jail. Mr Fortensky, aged 39, who met the Hollywood superstar in the Betty Ford Clinic in California in 1988, is accused of violating his probation after pleading guilty to drunken driving in 1987. The warrant says he failed to provide proof that he had enrolled in a three-month alcohol treatment programme that was a condition of his probation.

It was not clear whether Mr Fortensky's stay at the Betty Ford Clinic would satisfy the court's demand. Miss Taylor was herself recovering yesterday from a near-collapse on Tuesday in Houston, the eighth stop on a 10-city tour to promote her latest line of perfume.

## Sentence upheld

Washington — A federal judge sentenced Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, to six months in prison and a \$5,000 (£2,880) fine for cocaine possession, confirming the sentence he originally handed down a year ago before Mr Barry's appeals. The judge rejected arguments that he had suffered enough.

## Dayaks' choice

Kuching — Tribesmen have been trekking through the Borneo rain forest to vote in elections in the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Nearly 700,000 voters began casting their ballots in the oil-rich state, where the nationalist Bangsa Dayak Sarawak party is challenging the state government. (Reuters)

## Diplomat shot

Luanda — Francisco Rosario, a representative of the East Timor independence movement, accredited as a diplomat in the Angolan capital, has been shot dead in broad daylight, Angolan television reported. He was shot by two men as he entered the lobby of the apartment block where he lived with his family. (Reuters)

## Mongolia visit

Ulan Bator — The Dalai Lama was mobbed by the Buddhist faithful on his first visit to Mongolia since democracy took root last year after decades of Soviet control. Some 15,000 people outside a monastery surged towards his car to glimpse their highest spiritual leader. (Reuters)

## Burial refused

La Paz — The Bolivian government said it would not allow Klaus Barbie, the Nazi "Butcher of Lyons", to be buried here where he hid for 33 years. Barbie died of cancer on Wednesday aged 77 in prison in the French city of Lyons, where as Gestapo chief he had ordered the execution of thousands. (Reuters)

## Boulez ill

Paris (AFP) — Pierre Boulez, aged 66, the French composer and conductor, has cancelled a series of European appearances for unspecified health reasons. The Ensemble Intercontemporain said that he will be replaced by Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Finnish conductor, in London on October 14 and 15. (AFP)

## Fancy pants

Toronto — A Canadian store chain is to stop selling women's boxer shorts which have NOINNO printed in black all over them, changing to a neon green YESYESYES in the dark. Susan Pettigrew, a mother of two, complained that the shorts made light of a No-Means-No campaign against rape. (Reuters)

## Rebel ambush

Manila — The communist New People's Army, which has been fighting for 22 years to establish a marxist state in the Philippines, killed 26 government soldiers and two civilians in ambushes just days after calling off a unilateral ceasefire, the military said. An unknown number of rebels were killed. (Reuters)

## Snake feast

Delhi — A 10ft python was recovering from surgery after trying to swallow a goat, the United News of India said. The snake apparently panicked at the sight of advancing villagers, near Chhotia Udepur in western Gujarat state, and tore its throat while trying to regurgitate the goat. There was no news of the goat. (Reuters)

## Accord on boat people far off

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN and Vietnam yesterday agreed on the need to speed up the return of tens of thousands of boat people in Hong Kong's crowded detention camps, but were still far from a final accord.

A joint statement issued after week-long talks in Hanoi between British, Vietnamese and United Nations officials emphasised that the slow pace of repatriation from Hong Kong had to be speeded up. The communiqué avoided using the phrase "mandatory repatriation", leading to speculation here that Hanoi might have dropped its opposition to forced repatriation.

However, the Foreign Office assistant undersecretary for Asia, Andrew Burns, refused to discuss the details of the talks, saying only that whatever had been agreed was in line with the existing international agreements on the boat people and insisting he must first return to London for consultations.

The joint statement also used for the first time the words "illegal immigrants" to describe non-refugees. But American opposition to any forced return of boat people to Vietnam remains an obstacle. Britain, it is understood, has been lobbying American officials at the United Nations to persuade them to change their position. The statement said further discussions and "consultations in capitals" were required.

Analysis here said it was hard to imagine Vietnam accepting deportation without Washington's consent as it desperately wanted the American trade embargo, imposed after the end of the Vietnam war, lifted.

## L-plate lovers have a ball with Sony's Cinderella

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

IN ENGLAND when Kevin plans a date with Tracy, he might polish the Ford Cortina, take her for a spin down to Brighton, and end up necking to Sheena Easton on the back seat, perched on Beachy Head. In Japan, when callow Kenji wants to get fresh with Tetsuko, he invests in a copy of *Cinderella*.

This is a new compact disc by Sony, to be played in the car while Kenji and Tetsuko cruise round Sony's romance course. The CD and its accompanying literature offer a guide in ten easy steps to manoeuvring timid Tetsuko from candle-lit dinner in Yokohama, into Kenji's convertible and straight into the bedroom booked at Sony's recommended "love hotel" near Tokyo Disneyland. But Kenji must make it snappy, as the CD offers only 45 minutes of musical foreplay.

With successively more suggestive songs from *Cinderella* playing at full volume, however, and with the scripted small talk, prescribed route map and seduction instructions committed to memory, Kenji is guaranteed to turn on Tetsuko by leg ten of the drive, 45 minutes and 26 miles from the start, and just as the final track, *It's Only You*, begins on his car's sound system.

More than 20,000 aspiring Romeo have bought copies of *Cinderella* since its release in July. Yokohama Bay Bridge (to be admired to the sounds of *Heaven in the Nighttime*) must be crowded every Saturday night with cars and Kenjis, all mourning

sweet nothings into shell-like ears. The background briefing and chat-chat guide are designed to see Kenji through, conversationally, from dinner table to futon.

By section three of the route (after 4 miles, 9 minutes) Kenji should be bowling along past such scenic highlights as the Kyohama industrial complex and confiding his tastes in music. "Don't try to show off knowledge of the hit charts," advises the pamphlet. "Tell her you admire mature and intelligent artists. We recommend Sting and Sinead O'Connor."

As they pass the oil refineries, discerning Kenji

Have you heard of... Yes... This is the Cinderella? Pumpkin?



must push on and reveal his knowledge of cinema. "To show her you are assertive yet sensitive, tell her you like action movies but can also understand Woody Allen."

Now 14 minutes from his target, the musical beat warms up with *Night Runner*, and Kenji cleverly lets drop that he doesn't watch much television. In fact, he has followed the leader's advice and boned up all week on the trivia imparted on popular programmes for Japanese girls in their twenties. He now knows a thing or two about ladderproof

nylons and can list the snags of DIY manicures.

By now Tetsuko should be limp with admiration. Time to lighten up with a joke. "Girls like a funny man," the guide informs him. "You should practise jokes with your friends, because they create a relaxed atmosphere. Always remember that laughing together is a short cut to bed."

As his car approaches Haneda airport, Kenji is told to start giving her the glad eye. Correct interpretation of body language is crucial here, cautions the guide. If she keeps touching her throat or ears, then she apparently "wants to play ball" and the Sony magic is working.

Tetsuko's one chance of delivery from his off-the-peg advances is that Yokohama's traffic congestion snarls up the synchronised romance tour.

● Film festival: The Tokyo International Film Festival, which opened yesterday, may lack the glamour of Cannes, but is making its mark. "The distinguishing characteristic of this festival is Japanese money," said Yasuyoshi Tokuma, director general of the festival organising committee. The festival's budget is one billion yen (£63 million), more than any film festival except Cannes, he said.

Films such as Alan Parker's *The Commitments* and Volker Schlöndorff's *Voyager* are vying for the grand prix in the international competition. "Japan is now the second-biggest film market in the world," after the United States, said Edward Freeman, producer of *Wall Street*. (Reuters)

## Imam sued over visit by princess

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

A PAKISTANI religious leader who allowed the Princess of Wales to enter a mosque in a knee-length dress on Wednesday has been sued and ordered to appear in court by a magistrate in Lahore today.

Mufti Molana Abdul Qadir Azad, imam of Badshahi mosque in Lahore, came in for a barrage of criticism in reports in Urdu-language newspapers yesterday. The imam escorted the princess, who was wearing a dress with a V-neck line, around the mosque.

A Lahore lawyer, Suhail Ahmad Roomi, filed a civil suit in which the religious leader is accused of allowing the princess in to the building while improperly attired. The imam, known as a headline fundamentalist, was also criticised by the Pakistan People Workers' Forum, a labour organisation, but not on the ground of offending Islamic custom. It said he was inconsistent in maintaining a fundamentalist reputation while showing the "bare-legged princess" round his mosque.



Capboard love: Kathy Willets, a self-styled nymphomaniac, and her husband, Jeffrey, relax after a favourable court ruling at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a charge of prostitution. Mrs Willets, aged 33, admitting having sex with men while her husband watched and videoed the sessions from inside a wardrobe. (Reuters)

## Peru's poor defy the guerrillas

FROM CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

THOUSANDS of Lima's poorest people marched yesterday to protest against attacks by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas on community organisations in the slums.

Earlier this month, the Shining Path murdered Juana López, a neighbourhood leader of a grassroots organisation. A week later a food warehouse was dynamited and two community leaders killed. The attacks, with marches and theft and distribution of food

supplies, are part of a strategy to tighten the Shining Path's hold on the slums, says Carlos Tapia, an expert on the group. "The tactics are working. The Shining Path is winning in those areas," he said.

President Fujimori returned from America last week with news of Peru's readmittance to the international financial community. In apparent response, last night the Shining Path blacked out Lima and bombed several banks.

Peru's poor have paid dearly for their country's austerity programme which has been approved by the International Monetary Fund. Ninety per cent of the capital's residents live in poverty, but communal kitchens help.

"These women's organisations are the only obstacle to the Shining Path in Lima," said Esther Moreno, a congresswoman. "So they try to dominate or destroy them. They need hunger and chaos."



# Georgia conflict pits Hampstead elite against East Enders



Shevardnadze pilloried for death of hijackers

SOME of Georgia's best and brightest sons and daughters waited yesterday at the Tbilisi television centre in a mood of calmness and good humour, considering the terrifying night through which most of them had lived as rumours spread that many had been killed in clashes between forces backing President Gamsakhurdia and soldiers who have defected to the opposition.

From a distance, the pro- and anti-government forces in Georgia's political conflict and the civilian volunteers backing them, look similar: soldiers on both sides sport the same camouflage uniforms, Kalashnikovs and star-shaped badges depicting St George. But a visit to either camp quickly brings home the extent to which Georgia has split down the

middle: not exactly between rich and poor, but more between the cultured, liberal minority, and the authoritarian majority. It is as though Hampstead Garden Suburb was at war with the East End.

A remarkable number of the unshaven but gentle giants keeping weary vigil with their machineguns at the television centre speak good English, and one even answered questions in fluent Latin. Indeed, some of President Gamsakhurdia's soldiers, drilling in the courtyard of the main government building were hard-pressed to speak a coherent Russian sentence.

However, they understand his simple message - that an elected leader, the man who personifies Georgia's struggle to settle accounts with Russia, is under attack by

**Liberals and those in power share a deep sense of honour offering the best hope for preventing bloodshed.**  
**Bruce Clark writes from Tbilisi**

enemies of the people whose whining about civil liberties is probably a plot inspired by Moscow. Unlike the opposition soldiers, they accept the president's assurances that his move last month to merge the national guard with the police - at the behest of the Moscow coup leaders - was an act of prudence and not treachery.

"It was a temporary measure, nothing more," said one tough-looking youth. "And now 99 per cent of the Georgian people are with the president."

Last week, when critics of

the president, including film directors, philosophy professors, and most of Georgia's television journalists - started picketing the premises, there was a carnival atmosphere: extravagant embraces, shared jokes, and glasses of wine in the balmy evening air. This has partly given way to a mood of tension and anger. But even so the men and women in the crowd are still gripped by a sense of lofty idealism, which makes it hard to remember that they are defying an elected government and not defending one.

"Perhaps we will die like the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae [a Greek battle against the Persians in 480BC], but we are convinced justice will win," said Koba Habazi, a student. "Georgia is a Christian country and it cannot be a diabolical force will win."

Maya, a woman demurely dressed in a smart two-piece suit and pearls, said she had been a staunch supporter of the president until September 2 when police opened fire on demonstrators in Tbilisi. "Now I can see that he is trying to set Georgian against Georgian."

Among the president's soldiers, it is unlikely many people have heard of Thermopylae, but they probably see their own mission in similarly stark moral terms. "Most of the people on the

opposition side are just criminals," said one guardsman. But if the rift in Georgia is deep, it is not necessarily unbridgeable. Western liberal ideas like free speech, pluralism and the due process of law are clearly better understood by some Georgians than others. There are also values of pride, honour, fairness, and a revulsion for the killing of Georgians in any circumstances that run deep. If Eduard Shevardnadze is a prophet without much honour in the republic he once ruled as Communist party boss, it is partly because he ordered the execution of a group of young Georgian hijackers.

Both sides in the current conflict have been able to use the "human shield" principle to great effect, certain that no Georgian commander

will fire on a crowd that includes non-combatant compatriots and women. Military victory could turn instantly to moral defeat.

"Whichever side fires first in this conflict has lost it," Roman Kvetsadze, the deputy police minister, said on Thursday night. He was speaking only yards away from a potential flashpoint: the Palace of Sports, where pro-government supporters are grouping, prompting the opposition to train an artillery piece on the building.

For much of the night about 100 local residents stood in the potential firing line, furious that their district was being turned into a conflict zone. The best hope of avoiding a bloodbath in the republic is that the Georgian sense of honour will continue to be a factor.

## Miners leave as riot police break siege in Bucharest

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIAN riot police using tear gas, rubber bullets and birdshot drove back hundreds of angry coalminers and other anti-government demonstrators yesterday as they besieged Bucharest's Cotroceni palace, the official seat of President Iliescu.

The confrontation came after the miners' leader, Mircea Cosma, had told his men that he had struck a deal with the president and that they should go home. "Cosma has betrayed us," shouted angry miners several hours later as they tried to persuade thousands of their comrades not to return to the Jiu valley where they had come from.

"Dirty, exhausted and hungry," the miners had flooded into the city's Banasa station where trains were waiting for them. Earlier in the day some 2,000 had already left but yesterday evening hundreds of miners armed with staves and axes were still milling around in the centre of Bucharest.

Thousands of miners came to Bucharest on Wednesday to demand the resignation of the prime minister, Petre Roman, and President Iliescu whom they regard as having betrayed them after being called to the capital by him in June 1990 to attack anti-government demonstrators. Now they also came to demand a wage increase and price freeze.

Since their arrival the miners have attacked the government headquarters in Victory



Wave of anger: Romanians confronting guards outside the parliament in Bucharest immediately before sections of the crowd, including miners, broke into the building on Thursday

## Bosnia adds to EC's anxieties

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

AMID continuing violations of last Sunday's flimsy ceasefire, diplomatic moves are under way to extend the mission of the vulnerable European Community monitoring teams in Croatia to the neighbouring republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

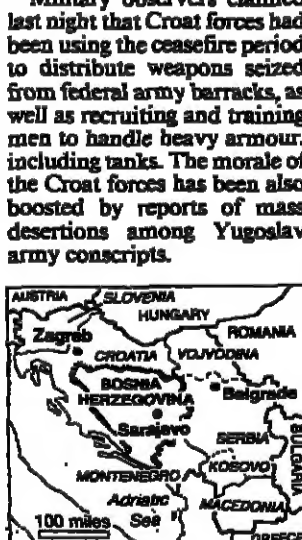
The teams of observers have been nicknamed the "ice cream men" because of their white coats which make them resemble waiters. In spite of the local ridicule, they are the only outside presence which can bolster the ceasefire under repeated threat from Serb and Croat militia groups.

The moves to extend the monitoring to Bosnia is being masterminded by the European Community's Dutch envoy, Henry Wijnandts, whose plane came under missile attack near Zagreb on Thursday. His efforts follow reports of wide-scale troop movements in Bosnia, an ethnically mixed republic where any clash could trigger a much greater bloodshed than what has been seen so far in the Yugoslav turmoil.

Both Serbia and Croatia have claimed serious ceasefire violations, with Belgrade accusing Croatia of attacks against the besieged Yugoslav army barracks in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, while Zagreb replied that a mortar fired by Serbs in central Croatia killed three children and an elderly man. The continuing violence

is causing concern in EC circles as it is being accompanied by repeated threats by Croat nationalists to renounce the territory, amounting to one-third of the republic, lost in recent battles.

Military observers claimed last night that Croat forces had been using the ceasefire period to distribute weapons seized from federal army barracks, as well as recruiting and training men to handle heavy armour, including tanks. The morale of the Croat forces has been also boosted by reports of mass desertions among Yugoslav army conscripts.



Yesterday heavily armed militiamen belonging to the extreme nationalist Croatian Party of Rights left Zagreb, claiming they were on the way to the border areas to resume the fighting. The party, whose private army has rejected attempts by Franjo Tudjman, the Croat president, to control it, has attacked the ceasefire as a "sellout". As the list of ceasefire breaches grows, citizens fear that full-scale fighting will shortly break out.

Cultural toll, page 1

## Dutch challenged over draft for union treaty

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE Dutch government will face demands for the withdrawal of its draft treaty on monetary and political union when European Community foreign ministers arrive here on Monday to consider whether there is any hope of completing a treaty by the end of the year.

Treaty talks have effectively stopped until governments can agree on what they are negotiating about. The Dutch government, which holds the EC's rotating presidency until December, this week tabled a treaty which has been criticised by Britain and seven other states.

The ministers will also discuss the EC's Yugoslav peace conference and the stalled talks on opening up trade with Eastern Europe. At their last meeting, France objected to a proposed increase in imports of Polish beef.

The French government has been promising since that a compromise can be reached, but no new proposals have emerged from Paris. French farmers, who are vociferously opposed to food imports from East Europe, are due to demonstrate in huge numbers in Paris tomorrow.

Britain finds itself in a highly unusual position in European politics - John Major is at the head of a solid majority in attacking the draft treaty. The spectacle is temporary. By the time of the Maastricht summit, Britain

will almost certainly be back in a minority, a position to which its prime ministers are more accustomed. The alliance of governments which would like to bury the radical Dutch draft, led by Britain, is a coalition of convenience and not of principle. If EC foreign ministers can dig themselves out of trouble on Monday and find a way to restart work on the treaty, then the present line-up will dissolve.

The key governments are, as always, Germany and France. Germany was one of only four governments to back the Dutch proposals this week and German officials were by yesterday already starting to edge away from The Netherlands. "We were not really supporting the treaty," one official said, "we just favour some of the ideas and want to get on with the work."

France shares a few of Britain's worries about losses of sovereignty but has its own agenda, needs to keep close to Germany and is desperate to conclude a treaty designed to preserve German interest in the EC. France's deepest fears about the fraying of its close postwar links with Germany have been awakened by the truculent and anti-EC mood in Germany over Yugoslavia.

The diplomats of Paris and Bonn are hard at work to see if they can find enough common ground for Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France to issue one of their grand proclamations on how the EC should proceed. If they succeed, Mr Major is likely to arrive in Maastricht with only the sternly anti-federalist Danes for company.

The present disarray stems from an extraordinary miscalculation by the Dutch government, which is running EC business until December. Treaty talks have been going on for all of this year but the Dutch government decided to start afresh on several of the most controversial topics: the rights of the European parliament, foreign and defence policy and the separation of national and EC powers.

Because the Dutch foreign minister is bogged down in Yugoslav diplomacy, the job of steering the treaty was given to Piet Dankert, the minister for European affairs. Mr Dankert is close to Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, and is a socialist member of the present coalition government in The Hague.

The socialists are under pressure to bring down the coalition over disputes about Dutch disability benefits. To keep the government together, the cabinet gave Mr Dankert, most of his own way.

He produced a treaty which made so little concession to British reservations over loss of sovereignty that almost any British government would have to veto it.

The Italian government, enthusiastic for a federal Europe since the 1940s, likes the ideas but is nevertheless attacking the Dutch for derailing the treaty negotiations.

of sovereignty but has its own agenda, needs to keep close to Germany and is desperate to conclude a treaty designed to preserve German interest in the EC. France's deepest fears about the fraying of its close postwar links with Germany have been awakened by the truculent and anti-EC mood in Germany over Yugoslavia.

The diplomats of Paris and Bonn are hard at work to see if they can find enough common ground for Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France to issue one of their grand proclamations on how the EC should proceed. If they succeed, Mr Major is likely to arrive in Maastricht with only the sternly anti-federalist Danes for company.

The present disarray stems from an extraordinary miscalculation by the Dutch government, which is running EC business until December. Treaty talks have been going on for all of this year but the Dutch government decided to start afresh on several of the most controversial topics: the rights of the European parliament, foreign and defence policy and the separation of national and EC powers.

Because the Dutch foreign minister is bogged down in Yugoslav diplomacy, the job of steering the treaty was given to Piet Dankert, the minister for European affairs. Mr Dankert is close to Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, and is a socialist member of the present coalition government in The Hague.

The socialists are under pressure to bring down the coalition over disputes about Dutch disability benefits. To keep the government together, the cabinet gave Mr Dankert, most of his own way.

He produced a treaty which made so little concession to British reservations over loss of sovereignty that almost any British government would have to veto it.

The Italian government, enthusiastic for a federal Europe since the 1940s, likes the ideas but is nevertheless attacking the Dutch for derailing the treaty negotiations.

## Moscow retreats in space

London - Important cuts in the Soviet Union's space programme are expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Political sources in Moscow said yesterday that decisions have been taken to axe Buran, the Soviet Union's space shuttle, and that an announcement cancelling Mir 2, the orbiting space station scheduled to be launched in 1992, will also be made.

The decisions signal the first of what experts believe will be a round of harsh cuts that could end the country's status as a space superpower. Mir 2 has been offered to America for \$700 million (\$404 million) as a low cost replacement for its own budget-stalled Freedom space station.

The decision to cancel the Buran project could surprise some Soviet engineers and military experts. The shuttle was scheduled to carry out what engineers had described as the most complex mission ever by an unmanned craft.

**Venus lightning**  
Pasadena - NASA's Galileo spacecraft has detected the strongest evidence yet that lightning occurs on Venus, according to a study published in *Science*. Galileo detected radio signals produced by six to nine lightning flashes in Venus's sulphuric acid clouds when it flew by the planet last year, the report said. (AP)

**Japan pounded**  
Tokyo - Typhoon Mireille pounded western Japan, killing at least 10 people and blacking out about 3.6 million homes. The national police agency said 234 people had been reported injured. Worst hit was the southwestern island of Kyushu where eight people were killed and nearly 200 injured. (Reuters)

**De Klerk visit**  
Johannesburg - President F.W. de Klerk will visit Israel on November 9 for three days and then fly to Taiwan, the South African Press Association reported. Mr de Klerk's office refused to confirm the report, saying only that further trips by the president were planned this year. (AP)

## Reforms put at risk by strike

By DAVID WATTS  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ROMANIAN miners made their way back to the Jiu valley last night, as worried bankers and reformers said the country's economic rejuvenation programme was in the balance.

"The reform is in danger," said Mugur Iasarescu, governor of the national bank at the conclusion of urgent talks with the International Monetary Fund. "I can't predict what's going to happen. It depends upon the new government."

There's great uncertainty about what kind of government it will be and what will its strategy be.

"I need the support of the government to carry through the reform and I was in close contact with the old government." He doubted that it had been an attempted communist coup - "they have been attacking both large and small shops and even the peasant market. Its clearly aimed at attacking the reform programme." The governor said that the legal provisions for the economic reform of the country were now in place but the miners' reaction was clear evidence that the public did not understand the reform process.

Leading reformers remained in hiding fearing retaliation from marauding miners who have smashed up anything related to their programme. They include Adrian Severin, deputy prime minister in charge of the reform programme. "Yes, the miners are going home," said one expert, "but at what price?"

## Ancient tongue teaches computers new tricks

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTERS capable of flawlessly translating books, documents and scientific papers from one language into another could soon be rolling off the production lines, courtesy of an ancient language that was first spoken 5,000 years ago by the Aymara Indians of South America.

Ivan Guzmán de Rojas, a mathematician, inventor, and the son of one of Bolivia's most famous painters, claims that the rigid, logical and unambiguous structure of the Aymara language is a natural bridge between the world's Indo-European tongues. The system he has developed will translate English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, German and Swedish, using

Aymara to decode the text of one language and instantly recode it into the new one.

The development has attracted the interest of Bull, the French computer company, which has signed a letter of intent to buy Señor Guzmán's invention which is called Atamiri, the Aymara word for interpreter. If Señor Guzmán's system is as good as is claimed, it might end some of the more sparkling errors which occur when machines are asked to try to translate meanings from one language to another and which have limited their use.

The most classic example of such errors is when "out of sight, out of mind" is translated from English into

Russian and then back into English to come out as "invisible idiot". The dream of flawless computer translation has attracted huge investment over recent decades. The European Community spent several million dollars on an unsuccessful computer translation project. "People saw it (translation) as a linguistic problem. But it is a problem of language engineering, how to translate grammar into algorithms which work in a machine," said Señor Guzmán.

Some groups have developed artificial bridge languages with names like Ariane and Logos, but the results which these have produced have been less than stunning. The idea that

Aymara, a living language which is still spoken by around 2½ million people in Bolivia, Peru and northern Chile, might make a better bridge language came to Señor Guzmán when he was teaching mathematics to Aymara children. His first prototype was produced six years ago with help from his wife, who is a trained linguist, and his son, an engineer.

The system has been tested by the Panama Canal Commission, which used it to translate documents from English into Spanish and Señor Guzmán has had research funds from the Canadian International Centre for Development Research, and from Rostlac, Unesco's regional office for

science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Señor Guzmán, who is negotiating the terms of the deal with Bull, wants the profits which arise from Atamiri to be ploughed back into helping the Indians who have inspired his work. He wants to set up a translation service for the Aymara, most of whom live in poverty on the Andean plain, so that books and news can be made available to them in their native tongue.

Atamiri could then become the saviour of the Aymara language, which has survived 4,000 to 5,000 years but is now being slowly displaced by Spanish.

**AGAINST FALLING HAIR**  
**pil-food** The Swiss method  
with MILLET!  
CAPSULES CONTAIN Extract of Millet, protein & Vitamins  
FROM YOUR CHEMIST, HEALTH STORE, HARRISONS AND SELFLEDGES or send for details  
Labe Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dept. TM, PO Box 1380 W5X2B 081-991 0272







TELEVISION REVIEW

# Clamped in the grip of urban vice

Lynne Truss is enthralled by a programme in which London's "most hated men" are tried by television

As befits its tradition of hard-hitting investigative journalism, Wednesday night's *Inside Story* (BBC 1) tackled a tale of urban vice, kidnapping in a modern, urban sub-culture, scraping the viewer's raw emotional nerves without the least compunction or apology. It was in places grueling to watch.

"Stop it!" one wanted to shout. "Stop this dehumanising madness!" In this film, victims begged their oppressors, reasoned with them, and cried to heaven to witness the injustice, but their efforts, alas, were as futile as the wind. No amount of threat or protest would prevent their double-parked BMWs being hoisted directly on to the back of a lorry and driven away to the car pound where, in turn, no amount of threat or protest would be accepted in lieu of a fine of 85 quid.

This programme's title was "Yellow Line", and it was terrific television. It had taken the everyday observation, "What sort of bastard volunteers to fit clamps or tow away cars?" and simply attempted to answer it. This was a front-line story, instead of analysing the bigger political issue of metropolitan parking (which was what the outraged car owners wanted urgently to discuss), producer Christopher Terrill sucked us straight into the vortex of the aggression, giving us the battle strategy as seen by the know-nothing Tommies who cheerfully wade daily through muck and bullets in the cause of the Urban Clearway.

Scots Derek and freckled Andy, for example, are a big-and-little team (a bit reminiscent of Lennie and George in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*)

who clearly take pleasure in the freedom from thought that their job provides. Far from regarding themselves as fall-guys, Derek and Andy are their hoist can lift a satisfying four tonnes' worth of expensive motor (and expensive motors are the ones they choose, for preference). And to be told that they are "the most hated men in London" gives them nothing but per-

*'The people whose behaviour you couldn't stick were the car owners, because they were always hopping mad'*

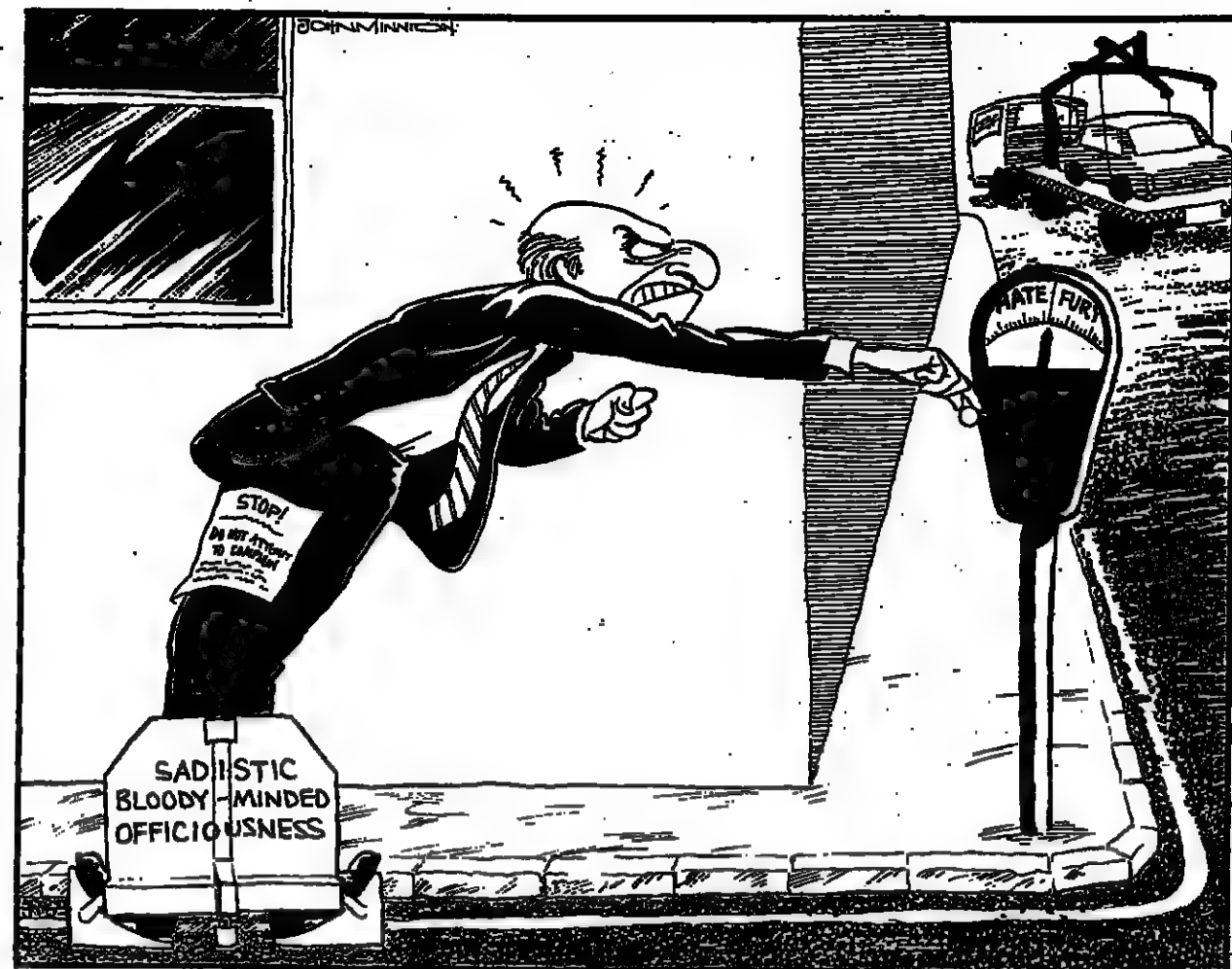
sonal satisfaction. "No doot about that," remarked Derek, with an enigmatic smirk.

But were they the most hated people in this film? No, and for the simple reason that we never saw them lose their temper. In "Yellow Line", the people whose behaviour you couldn't stick were the car owners, because they were always hopping mad (and ugly with it). Filmed at the car pound from the other side of the payments counter, all their diverse tactics - whingeing, pleading, threatening, speculating, swearing - looked thoroughly contemptible and futile. One's sense of justice was swept aside. Whatever the merits of each case, you wished they would just stop complain-

ing and hand over the dosh. Terrill's film followed a few everyday tours of duty, and then took us on two special missions: one, to clear Fulham's night-time streets of double-parked cars, the second, to lurk around Earls Court until a performance of *Tosca* started, and then pounce on anything with wheels attached that had been left outside. The Fulham mission was the bloodier, of course, because incensed yuppies kept trying to argue the toss. But the *Tosca* patrol was the sort of operation that, years from now, veteran town-men will relate to their admiring grandchildren: nicking lots of posh cars when their owners are safely ensconced elsewhere, in the full, exquisite knowledge that at 10.30pm a pleasant nob's night out would be topped off with mayhem.

The extraordinary thing, of course, was how the whole subject of *la voiture enchainée* seems to quicken one's pulse, and make one's cars go hot. Why? Is it just that we identify too strongly with our cars, or is there (just possibly) something faintly sado-masochistic about one's mixed fear and pleasure on seeing a clamped vehicle on a London street? "Can't move, can you, my darling?" you drool, running lascivious eyes over the car's curvy bits, and tickling the wing-mirror with the handle of a bull-whip. It's a thought. And remember how we all enjoyed watching Basil Fawlty castigate his recalcitrant motor by lashing it with birch twigs? Lumme. Perhaps I need a holiday.

This was not, on the whole, an inspiring week. There seemed to be an absence of organising intelligence somewhere (though admittedly,



perhaps it was mine). The most interesting stuff centred on three examples of trial by television. On Monday's *World in Action* (Granada), the occasionally shocking ill-effects of breast implants were investigated (silicone leakage, for example), and various manufacturers and surgeons were confronted with the discoveries. In *Lawyers* (Channel 4), the apparently suspicious death of a woman drowned in a Jacuzzi went to court. And on *Equinox* (Channel 4), we learnt of an alleged academic fraud in

India, concerning a professor of palaeontology. The fact that the fossil organisms in the fake-rocks were utterly wrong for the

known history of the Himalayan region paradoxically made everyone think he was a real old clever-boots who had made astounding discoveries. The reason why no one voiced a suspicion was that he had cleverly shared his findings with eminent foreign experts. Thus, any denunciation would make the whole scientific establishment look stupid. But there was one vital question missing from this programme. Why had he done it (assuming he did)? Or, why might he have done it? Perhaps, years ago, when he was a

junior palaeontologist, a nasty older boy had swiped his hammer and walking-boots (so that, ever since, he has been irrationally frightened of field trips). Perhaps he gets hay fever, or doesn't like getting his hands dirty. The whole thing seemed a bit odd to me: if you go to the bother of writing academic research papers, why base them on false data when the genuine stuff is just sitting in a rack waiting for you to come along with your roll of plastic sandwich-bags? The full story, I suspect, is yet to be told.

## Musical summer of discontent

All has not been harmony for many of the capital's orchestras, with disputes taking centre stage. Richard Morrison reports



On a bed of roses? LSO's Michael Tilson Thomas

The London orchestras suffered a grisly summer. Having won the Festival Hall residency, the London Philharmonic has been rocked by precisely the sort of 1970s-style internal strife that the residency was supposed to eradicate. Five selected players have resigned from the orchestral board, including the chairman David Marcou. John Willan, the LPO's iron-willed managing director, survives. So too does the young music director, Franz Welser-Möst.

But at the root of the dispute is a fierce disagreement about how far the players should renounce their traditional self-governing status, and allow the orchestra to be controlled by its music director and managing director. Is that the price to be paid for that elusive goal, "world-class status"? At a time when, for instance, the Berlin Philharmonic's players are taking more of a grip on their own

affairs than they have done for decades, there must be room for dissent. "One casualty of the affair has been Judy Grahame, the LPO's marketing director. Her resignation brings to an end an extraordinary nine-year period of art marketing innovation: an era of Saatchi tube posters and television commercials, of selling whole concert series through carefully planted colour-supplement articles, and of intricately engineered lobbying campaigns. The style was too brazen for some delicate flowers in the classical music world; but it produced results. The LPO's Festival Hall rivals have had other problems. The Philharmonia, too, has shed its head of public relations and marketing, though this was apparently a

cost-cutting exercise. Morale at the Royal Philharmonic has been devastated by the suicide of one of its clarinetists in a hotel room during a South American tour. That tragedy tested even this orchestra's legendary powers to bounce back from adversity. Moreover, the LPO, Philharmonia and RPO are all performing in a venue, the South Bank, which itself now radiates a feeling of dreams forever unrealised. All the great plans, involving demolishing the concrete walkways (which should have happened in 1987, according to a yellow-

ing press release in my files), roofing over the Queen Elizabeth Hall, building a rehearsal hall, electronic studio, shopping mall and the rest, now seem to belong in never-never land. As for the programmes, they are this season no more adventurous than before the South Bank's artistic director, Nicholas Snowman, began his repertoire revolution five years ago. These are just the local difficulties. The London orchestras must also compete more strenuously than ever to retain their share of film and television session work. In

given the fact that the Barbican Hall is still no acoustical paradise. The orchestra is at present doubling its string principals, so that no section leader has to work more than half the year. It has also enlarged its string sections, reduced the orchestra's workload, commissioned 14 new works in the next four years, set up a "research and development group" of 15 players to perform experimental music, and made long-term plans with such illustrious soloists as Rostropovich and Mutter. How has this miracle been achieved? The simple answer is money. Last season the LSO pulled off a spectacular funding coup: money from the City of London, matched pound for pound by the Arts Council. Now the LSO's performances must demonstrate - to politicians particularly - how providing seed-money results in a flowering of virtuosity. Here is a critical test-case for public subsidy of the arts.

## Robbing America for a storyline thread

Robbie Robertson should be used to being used. He spent 16 years on the road as a member of The Band and knows only too well the toll it takes on one's health and sanity. But the man sitting in a London hotel room with a bad cold has not been on the road since The Band staged the glorious filmed farewell of *The Last Waltz* in 1976. The exhaustion, even on this short promotional jaunt across Europe, has taken him by surprise all over again.

The promotion in question is for *Storyville*, the follow-up to Robbie Robertson, his acclaimed solo debut of 1987. Based on a short story he wrote not long after the release of his first album, *Storyville*

around, was very appealing," he says. "Once I'd put together the story, the songs just started to grow." Robertson's story led him to think of *Storyville*, the notorious red-light district in turn-of-the-century New Orleans. *Storyville* became the "downtown" into which his lovers descend, while New Orleans itself, always an important ingredient in The Band's sound, became the predominant musical reference point. "Making a record that incorporates the mystery and spice of New Orleans has been a dream of mine ever since I heard Smiley Lewis and Huey 'Piano' Smith as a kid in the Fifties," says Robertson. "It's not my job to make a 'New Orleans album' and it's not my calling, but to let that help with the thread of the album seemed very natural."



Robertson: "A record that incorporates the mystery of New Orleans has always been a dream of mine"

pan, it's like 'you woke me up.' The single biggest influence on Robertson as a solo performer remains the films of *Last Waltz* director Martin Scorsese on which he worked in the 1980s: *Raging Bull*, *The King of Comedy*, *The Color of Money*. That could be why *Storyville* feels a bit like a movie. "The way I approach songs and storytelling and music now is like an extension of the things I've done with Marty. With The Band I was just being true to the character of the group, but my work in film and film music has led me to a place where I think differently about how I get the emotions out of the material."

At this point in the interview it is my difficult duty to pass on the news that Alex North, whose scores included *Spartacus* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and who was one of Robertson's Hollywood mentors, has just died. "He's the one who got me addicted to vision and sound," he says. "He taught me how powerful this tool can be." The biggest surprise for Robertson fans of old is the talk of his going back on the road again. This would be no tired old rock tour, however. Robertson wants to assemble nothing less than a modern-day version of the spectacle he celebrated in The Band's "W.S. Walcott Medicine Show", a "street opera" featuring as many of the people who contributed to *Storyville* as possible. "I think somebody needs to do something besides smoke bombs, or the same old pickin' and a-singin'," he says. "I've been there, done that, and I've grown to a place now where I have to say: 'Y'know, folks, I'm bored, aren't you bored?' So instead I'd like to take people to a place of trance, a theatre of music."

Storyville is released by Geffen on Monday.

### Barney Hoskyns meets the Sixties rocker Robbie Robertson, back on the road with a new album, *Storyville*

could be described as a "concept album". "Sort of Dante and Beatrice go downtown," is how the Canadian guitarist sums-up his tale of romantic infatuation, which stretches not only across time but across America. "For years, this thought of doing an album that had a thread, a centre that it could revolve

English National Opera's smash-hit production returns to the London Coliseum

*'The sort of show it's worth going a long way to see.'*  
Daily Express

*'It never stops being fun... not to be missed.'*  
The Guardian

Opens Saturday then September 30  
October 2/5/8/9/11/16/17/19/24/26/31  
November 6/8/13/16/21 at 7.30pm  
Matinees: 5 and 26 October at 2.30pm

Specialty reduced prices  
Tickets from only £5

English National Opera  
London Coliseum  
St Martin's Lane WC2  
Box Office 071-836 3161  
Credit Cards 071-240 5258

This revival is sponsored by  
National Westminster Bank

*The Mikado*  
Gilbert & Sullivan

**BG**

**AUTHORS**

Have you written a book that deserves publication? If so, please write to:

Dept TM/ST  
The Book Guild Ltd  
Temple House, 2nd Floor  
Leicester, East Midlands LE1 7JL

**ABLE LABELS**

NAME, ADDRESS, TEL. No. or any other info you need up to 15 lines

Printed on high quality paper. 100% recycled. 100% guaranteed.

£3.75 (plus £1.25 postage)

On Phone Write to: Able Labels & Design

**ABLE-WOVEN**

72 Blank on White Tapes

Normal Tapes

£3.50 (plus £1.25 postage)

One line only up to 30 words. 100% guaranteed.

For School, Uniform, Workwear, etc. Order in CLEAR BLOCK CAPITALS with payment TODAY! Del. 14 days

Stocking: 1st - Dept A - Earle Barton NORTHAMPTON NN4 6LS - Tel 0454 810701

Alan Ayckbourn, on his new production, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow



David Robinson reports on racial discrimination in Hollywood, and new moves to break the white decision-makers' cartel

## Have blacks passed the screen test?

Just as Hollywood is proudly declaring 1991 the year of the black film, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People comes thundering along with a report charging the film industry with discrimination. "Our report unapologetically discloses that African-Americans are under-represented in each and every aspect of the industry... We could not identify one black who had the authority to 'green light' a feature film."

To the casual observer, the discrimination is not apparent. So far this year a score of Hollywood films have had black directors, black casts, black themes. Many of the directors have been new and untied. John Singleton was 23 and one month out of the University of Southern California's filmic writing programme when he was given a \$6 million budget to make *Boyz n the Hood*. The film has since grossed more than \$50 mil-

lion. But Singleton is senescent beside 19-year-old Marty Rich, who is being wooed by three major studios after the acclaim for his *Straight Out of Brooklyn*.

The possibilities for young black directors have been opened up by the success of Spike Lee. "Every studio" says one executive, "wants its own Spike." Blacks already make up a disproportionate 25 per cent of the movie-going audience, and the new film-makers have brought new images to the screen: raw, melodramas of ghetto life.

Lee himself is difficult and acerbic and his films (*Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*) are patchy, but he is a skilful self-publicist, demonstrating how to manipulate white guilt and black anger to

career advantage. *Malcolm X*, which Lee is making for Warner, will have a higher budget than any previous film made by a black director, although at around \$30 million it is not exceptional by current Hollywood standards.

This does not satisfy the association: "Although the recent emergence of black produced and directed films is a sign of progress, many blacks in Hollywood feel that this amounts to little more than a passing trend..."

The point, in any case, is finally



New directions: (left to right) Singleton, Lee, van Peebles

about power. The association found only nine black studio executives, only one black vice-president in charge of feature production, and only one black talent agent in the industry. In this, motion pictures are almost unique. African-Americans hold

positions of authority in banking, insurance, finance, manufacturing — "anything you care to name". The special situation of the film industry is blamed on "nepotism, cronyism and racial discrimination".

Nepotism and cronyism have long been endemic in the film industry. The Jewish immigrants who created Hollywood traditionally kept things in the family. As to racism, it could be argued that there are far fewer Asians and Hispanics in Hollywood than blacks. For that matter, it is not so long

since women had little better chance than blacks in the executive branches of the industry.

One sector of the black community would like to see its own nepotism, cronyism and racism, by pooling black resources to own studios and networks. Others believe in integration, preferring to press for equity in the mainstream. The association's policy mainly favours this approach: it plans to establish a national office in Los Angeles to negotiate "fair share" agreements with networks and studios. Such agreements, relating to the hiring of a given proportion of black employees and contractors, already operate in many industries.

In 1987, the association launched a similar and successful

campaign within the record industry. In that case the NAACP resorted to a boycott. If the film industry does not respond voluntarily, says the association's executive director Benjamin Hooks, "we may withdraw our enthusiasm for watching certain TV shows or movies".

The film industry merits this level of attention, says Hooks, "because these decision-makers control the images of blacks projected on the screen". The association has been monitoring such images for three-quarters of a century, since the outrage aroused by the negative portrayal of blacks in D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*.

The young black males in the films of Lee, Van Peebles, Rich and Singleton are full of ghetto anger and energy, desperation and danger. Small wonder that their creators are tired of being employed and want their own share of the power.

## Clifford Longley

The churches should encourage their schools to opt out as a power block

About a quarter of state schools are under the control of the Church of England or the Roman Catholic Church — more than in the primary sector. When the leaders of those two churches, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, attack government educational policy, the government ought to listen. But it will not, so the churches must rethink, and square one is the place to start.

Dr George Carey and Cardinal Basil Hume have taken exception to the same two things: opting out policy, and the stress on vocational education. Neither opposes opting out per se, though neither has seen the opportunity it offers them. What they object to is the encouragement to opt out by financial rewards for schools that do so, which entails discrimination against non-opted out schools including the churches.

Neither of them rejects vocational education as such, but both fear it is being emphasised to a degree which militates against a rounded education. The nurturing of the whole person, the spiritual and moral dimension of education, is at risk, they say.

By encouraging opting out, the government is breaking up the great intermediate institutions of the educational system, the local education authorities (LEAs). The churches are also concerned for the future of their own intermediate institutions, diocesan boards of education (C of E) and diocesan education commissions (RC). If some church schools opt out and others do not, the maintenance of a balanced network is harder.

The churches are still major partners with the state in primary and secondary education. The 1944 Education Act, which determined the pattern of the dual school system, was a bargain between equals. The existence of LEAs was part of the bargain. The churches voluntarily put their schools into the 1944 package because it seemed fair.

Talk of these schools being "state subsidised" is misleading. Parents of children in church schools pay taxes like anybody else. There is no reason to think that they get back, in state contributions to the financing of their schools, more than they pay in. Indeed, a church has a statutory duty to contribute to the running

of the school, so there is a slight subsidy in the opposite direction, from church school parents to secular schools.

The government's reaction to this week's speeches by Dr Carey and Cardinal Hume was wholly unconstructive. Now the churches can either watch things getting worse (as they see it) or take the initiative themselves.

Neither church can go it alone. Joint church schools should be regarded no longer as pioneering experiments but as an ordinary part of the mix, a useful solution in certain cases. Meanwhile preferential entrance for the children of practising Anglicans in Catholic schools and vice versa should become general policy, as should Anglican representation on Catholic school governors' boards, and vice versa.

Opting out, rather than the wild card they are letting it become, should be the churches' trump. The churches should begin to prepare for a single appointed day on which all church schools opt out together. Once the churches gave their green light, there would be little difficulty in persuading parents to pass the necessary votes. What they would opt into is a confederation of church schools governing the country (or two linked groupings).

Britain's church school system is an enrichment of the national culture, standing for values in education which need defending. But vast would be the upheaval in the way the churches run their schools. Searching questions would have to be asked about diocesan versus national control, and about a place for local democracy in school governance. The churches would have to re-examine radically what they mean by education and what they think their schools are for, and calculate what opted-out church schools should expect in government grants. The evidence is that popular demand would lead to a larger church sector.

To start with, both would have to declare that they no longer trust the government to have the decisive voice in the education of the young. That is what they think already. If the two archbishops are not being misinterpreted, the rest is merely the logical consequence and feeding the government with its own medicine.

## Germany's walled gardens

A year after unity

Anne McElvoy

finds Berliners

as divided as ever as they cultivate their allotments

In the heart of unified Berlin these days, only the high, coarse grass and tangled weeds of the former death strip divide the fenced-off miniature kingdoms of Solitude and Freedom.

In the realm of Solitude people are mistrustful, insecure and scurry indoors at the sight of an unannounced visitor. Less than a hundred metres away, the odd sign announcing the point at which Freedom begins, the inhabitants are chatty, industrious and cheerful. The only thing each side has in common is a mutual disinclination to have anything to do with the other.

"Solitude" and "Freedom" are the proud titles of two of the hundreds of small garden colonies which sprouted at the end of last century as Berlin evolved rapidly from garrison town in the middle of the Brandenburg countryside to European metropolis.

Until August 13, 1961, they were part of a single, sprawling checker-board of allotment gardens. Then the wall was built, straight through the middle of the plot. Undeterred, the gardeners on either side carried on weeding and hoeing. As a concession to events, the western half, which fell into the district of Neukölln, renamed itself "Freedom". The eastern half, in Treptow, refused to give up its pre-division name.

To this day, Berlin's allotments bear the descriptions they were given in the 1890s. They reflect the durability of the unquiet Teutonic soul's longing for a rural idyll, even in the thickest of city jungles. Alongside Solitude and Freedom nestle the horticultural protectorates of Faithful Souls and Quiet Rest.

As centres of gossip, voyeurism and competition, they are unchanged since the 19th-century novelist Theodor Fontane described the quiet passions played out there in his Berlin novel *Die Irrungen, Wirrungen* ("Delusions, Confusions").

Before the wall was breached in November 1989, there was for the gardeners of Treptow a certain poignance in their solitude, for the allotment ended where the death strip began, and their weekend retreat was protected by guard dogs, automatic shooting devices and searchlights just beyond the regimented columns of tanks.

However, the West Berlin gardeners found the concrete monstrosity a useful aid. "We

used to plant tomatoes along it," said one man, hedgeclippers in hand, as he stared regretfully at the sandy strip where the wall used to run behind his rabbit hutch. "The concrete stored the heat and reflected it back onto the plants. We always had lovely tomatoes, but now that the wall is gone they don't grow as well as they used to."

A German's garden, east or west, is the public expression of his soul. He is as attached to his tiny plot of land as the Englishman is to his home. The dedication of the allotment holder was one of the quirkiest national characteristics which united all Germans during the years of estrangement.

In the east, the individualistic nesting instinct which the communists tried to repress by providing identical grey housing blocks simply found another expression. People bought tiny plots of land and erected dachas on them, playing out a weekend doll's-house existence away from the drudgery of state-controlled life during the week. The chronic shortage of vegetables also prompted them to supplement from their own soil the miserable offerings of curdling cabbage and twisted carrots in the shops.

In the west, the allotments were a showcase for the creative effort and extravagant acquisition of useful artefacts which were the outward signs of the federal republic's economic success. The gardens as mere vegetable patch was beneath West Berlin's post-war dignity. Instead, its people created miniature Edens, decorated with models of fairy tale castles and elaborate fountains. As far as the eye could see there were garden gnomes, clumps of hooded, grinning forms, admiring the manicured lawns around them, wielding tiny pitchforks and loitering beside trim ponds — indistinguishable in demeanour from their owners.

The last vestiges of the wall and



Past envious: the wall is gone, but its ghost still haunts the city

barbed wire have been cleared away, and nothing now bars the cobbled path in between the two colonies. But few venture on the walk to what they still call "the other side".

"What would I want over there?" asks a portly man collecting fallen apples in his garden in the east. "We have nothing to say to them. We come to our gardens to be among our own kind, not to

get into an argument with some arrogant West."

He is one of the few who has even ventured out of his dacha to talk, and he insists on anonymity. The reserve here borders on paranoia, for which there is good reason. In the years after the border was closed, the regime moved out any gardeners deemed politically unreliable and replaced them with trusted party members

and agents of the state security service, who could be trusted to wander this close to the west without trying to flee across. After all, the no man's land strip here was narrower than elsewhere.

"I would say that 90 per cent of us had something to do with the Ministry of State Security," says the portly man, adding unconcerningly, "I wasn't one of them, but there are some real old Stalinists round here. They were disappointed when the army didn't open fire on the demonstrators in 1989." He tells of revenge campaigns, of a former Stasi lieutenant whose apple tree was sawn down and prize roses trampled after the fall of the communists.

Nowadays, he blames trespassers from the west for damage to the gardens. "Things were so quiet before. Now they bring their big dogs with them from the housing estates to wreck the allotments. How does he know that the vandals are from the west? Just look at the dogs. Rottweilers, Dobermans, brutes. No east German has a dog like that — we don't have that cult of aggression. We stick to dachshunds and spaniels."

The families amuse themselves in the mock-Tudor cottages, wild west saloons and Bavarian hunting lodges sealed down to fit into the regulation squares on the western side rarely cast a glance at their neighbours. "Frankly, I don't want much contact with them at all," says one, "they were the people who supported the building of the wall and made it so difficult for us to see our families in the east. I can't see how we can sit down for a beer at the garden table together as if nothing has happened in these 40 years."

Weather permitting, the allotment keepers of east and west will spend the national holiday marking the first anniversary of reunification in their gardens next Thursday. They will raise a glass of good German beer to unity, but there will be no one popping over from the "other side" to share it.

The veteran of *Ostpolitik* Willy Brandt said of the merger of the two states that which belongs together would now grow back together again. The gardens of Berlin are proof that it will take several more hard winters of back-breaking work before the join finally disappears.

...and moreover

## PHILIP HOWARD

Parlez-vous français? Not the way they used to, they don't. The young are giving up the nice French distinction between *vous* and *tu*. Linguistic research indicates that the new generation of Franco-phones has abandoned the convention that *vous* is the formal second person pronoun for addressing you in the singular, and *tu* is the familiar pronoun for family and close friends. They have dropped *vous* as the dignified second person singular and proceed to *tuotter* everybody. This sounds impertinent to the older generation, which was taught at its nurse's knees to mind its *vous* and its *tu*.

What are we to make of the sudden death of *vous* as the second person singular pronoun in formal address? One reaction is to declare that the young are uneducated, that grammar is no longer taught, and that language itself is going to *les chiens*. This is the line taken by the Académie Française, in English by the Prince of Wales, and by other linguistic shellbacks who believe that the language they were taught at school was perfect and must never change.

A more intelligent reaction is to notice the gradual thinning down of pronouns and cases in all languages. Old English had three nests of words for saying you: thou, ye for three or more of you, and a dual pronoun for two of you. Each of them had at least four different cases. Over the years we have devised simpler ways of making the distinctions

that our proliferation of *vous* was used to make. We just say you for singular, dual and plural.

Some languages such as Greek and Italian used the third person singular as a formal way of addressing the second person. Does he (scilicet, the lord, lady, or gentleman) want a port? I suspect that this stilted reluctance to address somebody as you in the singular goes back to primitive superstition, which still makes people in some parts of the world reluctant to tell strangers their names, in case they give away some magical power over themselves.

Apart from the natural tendency in a language to simplify its syntax, the death of polite *vous* singular in French is part of a general modern tendency away from formality in all languages. In English today, to address somebody by the surname is regarded as aggressively rude. Even with a handle such as Mr or Miss, it sounds frosty. So, on matinee chat shows, Wogan is on Christian name terms with archbishops he has just met for the first time. And idiot PR persons and even sensible companies, address strangers by both Christian and surnames: Dear Frederick Featherstonebaugh.

We are losing something with our modern craze for informality and our horror of sounding pompous. All change is partly for the bad as well as partly for the good, except in the Soviet Union, where it is entirely for the good. We are losing fine nuances. A century ago a male

progressed from being called Master Howard to Mr Howard to plain Howard, and then only by his closest friends.

He was addressed by his first name only by his nanny and parents, his siblings, and perhaps by his wife, if she was lucky. Dickens was so shocked when a man at dinner referred in public to his wife as darling plus Christian name that he fell off his chair and lay on the floor in stage horror. A middle-class woman could go through the whole of life without being on Christian name terms with an adult male of her own class, except in fiction. This partly explains the popularity of Victorian novels.

Romance might introduce Christian names. In French, the gradation in address from *vous* to *tu* produced frissons, and was as good as a proposal. Of course, it is sad to lose an old distinction. When everyone is *tu* then no one's anybody.

*Vous* has had worthy work in its time:

Ariane, ma soeur de quel amour blessée  
Vous mourrez aux bords où vous êtes laissée.

There is a sister addressed as *vous*. Racine could make poetry out of the formal *vous*, as well as out of the historical past. But we can survive the death of *vous*. French is still one of the great languages. The world has changed for the better in friendliness and lack of class snobbery when we forget these formal old forms of address.

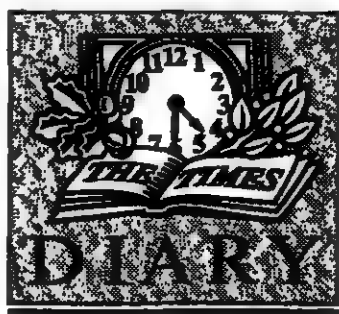
## Saying his peace

ADMIRAL Sir John "Sandy" Woodward, the battle group commander during the Falklands war, is at last to write his memoirs of the conflict. Among the most intriguing claims he will make is that contrary to her image, Mrs Thatcher asked her commander to sound less aggressive in his public pronouncements.

Woodward's account will be published next year, to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the war. As a serving officer until 1989, he has not been in a position to write his memoirs before. After the capture of South Georgia in April 1982, Woodward told reporters: "This is the run-up to the big match, which, in my view, should be a walkover." Today he says: "Afterwards I received the only contact I had with Mrs Thatcher during the whole war. She felt I had been too bellicose and invited me to do it again presenting the image of a more reasonable, peace-loving man. I thought: 'Forget the peace-loving bit'."

Prime ministers, however, cannot be ignored so easily. Just 48 hours later, Woodward conveyed a softer message: there was "no simple, short, quick military solution", he told reporters on board his flagship, HMS Hermes.

The former commander promises new revelations about one of the most painful legacies of the war, the sinking of the *Belgrano*. But even a decade later, there are things that cannot be told. "I have written the book from my personal diaries of the time, which were my safety-valve when there was no one else there to relieve the pressure," says Woodward. "I don't have access to my official diaries as they are with the MoD."



● The true cause of the difficult relationship between Evelyn Waugh and his children is about to be revealed in his son Auberon's autobiography. When the first contingent of bananas arrived in Britain after the war, rationing was relaxed to allow every child in the country one each. But Bron and his two sisters were forced to sit in anguish while Waugh senior placed all three on his plate, covered them with cream and sugar and devoured the lot. From then on, Bron writes, he never took seriously anything his father had to say on faith or morals.

## Gents and players

AS the rugby world cup squaws and their entourage assemble for their official dinner at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel tonight, embarrassed organisers have had to tell one of the guests of honour, Kenneth Baker, that his invited companion is not welcome.

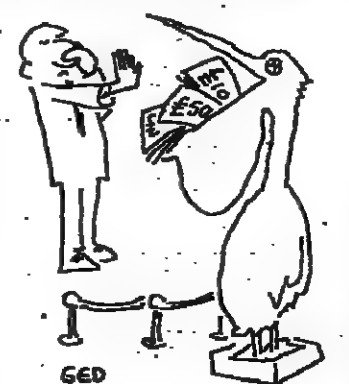
Originally the invitation was issued to the home secretary and his private secretary. But when Baker accepted on behalf of himself and his senior aide, Heather Wilkinson, the rugby authorities were thrown into a spin. Having carefully excluded wives from all invitations, they never dreamed that the home secretary could employ a woman to run his office, and the cup organisers decided that

tonight's event, which will be attended by about 1,200 rugby-lovers, should be an exclusively male affair. Quite why remains unclear. Perhaps the assembled teams are planning to sing lewd ballads in some huge communal shower after the coffee and petit fours.

Whatever the reason, Baker has decided that discretion, as ever, is the better part, and has tactfully found another companion.

## The wrong stuff

EMPEROR VESPASIAN famously declared that money had no smell, but the World Wide Fund for Nature clearly disagrees. Tom Granger, a Devon-based collector of stuffed birds, has a small fortune to give away and wants to donate it to the charity. But the WWF does not want his money. Granger, now 74, is selling his collection, which was assembled over 40 years and includes rare and now protected species of eagles and falcons. "It is a fine collection and it seems appropriate



that the fund should get the money," says Granger, who expects the sale to raise about £20,000. But he will have to find another beneficiary. The WWF yesterday

decided it could not think of anything less appropriate than to accept Granger's money. Jane Bevan says: "We have to turn down his offer. If we are seen to be condoning taxidromy it could be very embarrassing." Perhaps the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has fewer scruples?

## Grit at the seaside

NORMAN TEBBIT is looking forward to the party conferences as much as anyone, particularly to the visits he is due to make to the Labour conference in Brighton next week as a television presenter.

His acerbic presence may be less welcome at the Tory conference in Blackpool, where he is due to open old wounds by launching a passionate defence of Thatcherism and to allege implicitly that it has since been betrayed. At least one of his colleagues thinks he would be better off sticking to the south coast. "Of course the socialists will be happier to see him than our lot," says Tory MP Julian Critchley. "He appreciates their sense of humour and has a lot in common with Neil Kinnock."

● When William Waldegrave unveiled the Department of Health's report on "medical aspects of food policy" this summer, even food experts condemned it as impetuous. Now the department has asked the Guild of Food Writers to help. "Volunteers are sought from the guild's ranks for help in translating the committee on medical aspects of food policy report into lay language, and converting its policy recommendations into practical dietary advice," says the guild's latest newsletter. So who is co-ordinating this effort to help the government speak in plain English? None other than Caroline Waldegrave, chair of the guild and wife of the health secretary.





## DITHERING ON DATES

John Major now has three election-date options open to him. He can plan one this year, which means in late October or early November. He can decide not to hold one until next year, which means the spring. Or he can decline to make up his mind. The case for each of the first two options is strong. The case for the third is dreadful.

Conservative party managers, in so far as they are of one mind, are set on the third. They wish to keep open the option of a November poll, taking the view that Mr Major would be mad not to call an election if he has a month of consecutive opinion polls in his favour by at least four percentage points. Thus there is all of October to go before a decision need be taken on a November date. The current pretence that there may be an election can be sustained. The Opposition can be forced to expend its ammunition. The electorate can be kept on tenterhooks and guessing. Politicians can indulge their favourite pastime, indecision.

Indecision over election timing may be mildly amusing to dilettante politicians. To businessmen, civil servants, bankers and the mass of those whose work is in some part affected by a general election, indecision is damaging. When Britain was last faced with such uncertainty, in autumn 1978, the raising and dashing of expectation did the then prime minister, James Callaghan, no good.

Since Mr Major so far resolutely declines to rule out an election this year, election fever is naturally high. His colleagues are mesmerised by opinion polls, so the fever ebbs and flows with each week's publication. Both parties are now running dummy campaigns with almost daily press conferences and the ritual exchange of abuse. The sense of let-down should there not be an election will not help the government and will give opposition parties a useful line of attack.

The case for going this year is enticing. A drawn-out campaign is bad for the country's administration, with even remotely controversial decisions frozen until after polling day. A long dark winter lies ahead, and with it rising unemployment and no evident relief from the more obvious recessionary in-

dicators, like the housing and job markets. More Tory voters will be thrown out of work by next March. More Tory by-elections will be lost, beginning with embarrassing potential defeats in Kincardine and Deeside, and in Langborough.

Oppositions are ahead in the polls more often than they are behind, and there is no knowing what trouble the European Commission, the Treasury or the health and education lobbyists may not hurl the government's way over the next six months. Mr Major is looking good. Neil Kinnock has had a bruising few weeks. The polls suggest level-pegging. Every campaign is a gamble, but to go now is less of one than waiting through the winter. So Mr Major should go now. He will be damned if he waits until the spring and loses.

The case for not going inverts these arguments. The consistency of the Chancellor's strategy of playing the recession long remains intact, and points to an election postponed as long as possible. Having accepted this strategy in the spring, why abandon it now? Most economic indicators will look better in 1992, notably growth and consumer spending. Labour may have shot its bolt with a leader looking ever more tired. Mr Major's international stature is growing. To go now and lose, when the outlook must be rosier next year, would be the height of folly.

At such times, politicians retreat from ratiocination. They reach down the memoirs of their forebears. They gaze into ever denser entrails: constituency and backbench opinion, stockbrokers' reports, the more obscure political columns. They prick their thumbs. They talk about nothing else, laying off bets to protect their reputations.

The decision facing Mr Major is clear. He should await this week's polls only, take a deep breath, and choose. He should either abandon his party conference and call an election for October, before dark nights and evil by-elections cast a gloom over his chances. Or he should say clearly that there will be no election this year. The present game of cat and mouse will lose him votes.

## ALMOST A CHARTER

The government's new Parent's Charter will increase openness in state schools. That is good. The claim from teachers' bodies yesterday that parents will be misled by information on school performance is patently nonsense. At present most parents judge schools by local rumour or hunch, far less reliable than any official league table of curriculum test results.

None the less the document unveiled yesterday by the education secretary, Kenneth Clarke, is not quite like the charters for patients, passengers, public-utility users and the rest, all subsets of the Citizen's Charter which make up John Major's "big idea" for the coming election campaign. The theory is that market forces cannot always be relied upon to improve performance, particularly when the consumer is dealing with a public-sector monopoly provider like the National Health Service or British Rail with considerable institutional rigidity. These charters offer alternative remedies for poor service — ways round hospital waiting lists, compensation for late trains — when simple transfer of custom to a better supplier or provider is not practical.

In place of alternative remedies, Mr Clarke's charter offers information. Parents will be entitled to an annual written report on their child, and to know the relative performances of all local state schools, including their success rates at examination and university entrance, the school budget, truancy rates, procedures for electing school governors, and a summary of reports from school inspectors every four years.

All that helps choice of school. But what are parents of children already in school to do with the information if they do not like what they hear? Such parents cannot use so drastic a measure as removing their child from a school every time they disagree with a teacher — any more than every school can take every child whose parents "choose" to move it there from somewhere else.

Even where parents are lucky enough to get the school they want, this exercise of choice is only real twice, when a child starts at primary school and then at secondary school. Once a child is placed in a school, that school becomes a monopoly supplier. Mr Clarke's invisible hand of the market may indeed gradually raise standards across the board. But there is no remedy here for the one dissatisfied parent whose child is half way through a school. News that an individual child's education is going badly, unless there is something the parent can do about it, will merely compound frustration.

Mr Clarke should have concentrated more on the correction of individual grievances. One route would be to give Her Majesty's inspectors an ombudsman role, making them directly approachable by parents, just as regulators are open to customer complaints in other industries. The mere knowledge that parents had such rights would produce a better balance of power between teacher and parent. Instead Mr Clarke is moving in the opposite direction, partly privatising the schools' inspectorate and giving a learner HMI the role of regulating the new private teams. HMI inspections will take place only when a school is clearly in difficulties.

In future governors will have to hire HMI-approved private inspectors every four years to examine their school's performance. Putting summaries of inspections in the hands of parents may well enhance the effectiveness of parental choice in improving schools generally. It will leave one badly treated parent as powerless as ever.

John Major should thank Mr Clarke for his efforts to improve education market forces, but tell him his department's real contribution to the citizen's charter package is still awaited. An aggrieved parent must have somewhere to go — other than to the institution the grievance is about.

## SOUNDING THE RETREAT

In his prayer for generosity, St Ignatius Loyola tells those who carry out his spiritual exercises "to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Thy will". Such selfless devotion to a cause without the promise of success in this life is nowadays not merely rare — as it always was — but seemingly at odds with the ethos of a secular society.

Yet the words of St Ignatius, along with other Christian guides to the inner life, still help many whose days are indeed spent in toil, not for any divine purpose but to sustain their families and realise their ambitions. An increasing number of these, not necessarily churchgoers nor even Christians, are nowadays finding rejuvenation and meaning in their lives in the ancient custom of retreat: a few days of quiet prayer and introspection in a Christian community or retreat house.

Many retreats are supervised by Anglican and Roman Catholic monastic or conventual orders. Others are led by clergy or laymen of various Christian denominations. Demand for places exceeds supply. Some 160 houses offer retreats, and most are booked up in advance throughout the year. For lay persons, the cost may vary between £15 and £30 a day, but some are asked only for donations according to means.

Those who go might find themselves in eminent company — the Archbishop of Canterbury is at present on retreat. There is no social appeal: a normal retreat of eight days

might involve little conversation with anyone. A retreat is scarcely a health farm for body and soul, even if those on retreat may do well to follow the Pope's example by including strenuous physical as well as spiritual exercises in their daily routine. Those on retreat are sometimes coming to terms with a bereavement, a divorce or other crisis. No questions are asked. Nobody qualifies to go on retreat by ostentatious piety.

In these respects, the churches have yet to realise their full potential. To a hyperactive society, the *vita contemplativa* is more attractive than ever. Old prejudices against monks and nuns have given way to awe and to a desire to emulate their inner calm. Yet outside the churches and their press, there is little publicity for retreats. The well-informed will contact the National Retreat Association in London, but to those who lack such contacts the possibility of a retreat is unlikely to occur. If the damage to monastic life in Britain wrought by Henry VIII, only partly repaired by the foundations of the last two centuries, is ever to be undone, the benefits of going on retreat deserve to be proclaimed from every pulpit.

From the ranks of those now on retreat and from their children will come the religious vocations of the future. But the chief beneficiary will not be the churches but society at large. To be at ease with itself a nation cannot do without its retreat.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Booker reply on Mosley resignation

From Mr Jeremy Treglown  
Sir, No one who has read Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow* or Timothy Mo's *The Redundancy of Courage*, both shortlisted for this year's Booker prize, will take seriously Nicholas Mosley's claim (article, September 26) that the judges are uninterested in ideas. Our argument was about whether the particular "novel of ideas" favoured by Mr Mosley is well written and imaginatively stimulating.

It was also about whether such novels (supposing he is right that they form a separate category from other novels) are the only ones of value. Mr Mosley says he cannot "care deeply" about any of the shortlist. He is missing something. Still he has raised some serious questions, and I will do my best to respond to them at the prizegiving itself on October 22.

Meanwhile, may I comment on his implication that there was something eccentric about the method of selection?

The process was this: the judges — apart from me, all of them novelists — had two long meetings at which we discussed, often in detail, every book for which anyone wanted to make a claim. Some common ground appeared quite quickly; more came later, but by the end there were still powerful differences of opinion between us all.

As chairman I wanted to give weight to individual preferences, while as far as possible reinforcing

such agreement as existed. So the judges were asked, as is quite usual, to list six titles in numerical order of preference, giving six points to their favourite, five to the next, and so on.

To deter compromise the Booker has a good rule (which in the event we did not need to invoke) that no book should be shortlisted without "the full support of at least one judge in whose opinion it is a valid contender for the prize itself". The chairman has a casting vote.

The shortlist consists of the six titles which won the most votes. This has been a strong year and every judge suffered some disappointment. I myself would have liked to see Angela Carter's *Wise Children* and Ian Sinclair's *Downriver* on the list. I sympathise with Nicholas Mosley's regret that none of his own favourites got through. But in a democratic process, it scarcely seems a resignation issue.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY TREGLOWN,  
102 Savernake Road, NW3,  
September 26.

From Mr Anthony D. R. Holland  
Sir, Is there an inference to be drawn from the fact that none of the novels selected for the Booker shortlist is set in the United Kingdom?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY HOLLAND,  
Windlesham Manor,  
Windlesham, Surrey,  
September 25.

### The 'pitiful state' of Heveningham Hall

From Mrs David Wheeler  
Sir, In 1969 the trustees for my father, Andrew Vaneck, sold Heveningham Hall, Suffolk, to the government of the day and under good, as did we, that the intention was to preserve what was described as "an outstandingly complete unity of 18th-century design".

Last week I visited Heveningham, where I had lived for almost 30 years. My visit was prompted by receipt of a widely circulated and quoted letter from Lady Blatch (minister for the heritage) contending that the state of the house was perfectly acceptable and that credit should be given to the al-Ghazzi family (report, August 16). That is patently not the case.

The house and grounds are in a pitiful state. The secondary rooms have been tastelessly reconstructed as a conference centre with architectural features mutilated or obliterated in many cases. The principal rooms have been picked over and are now in an infinitely worse state than when the government acquired the house.

As for the print room, no serious research could have been undertaken before painting the walls a bilious puce, a colour which does not conform to either my family's collective memory or to contemporary documentation. For Lady Blatch to praise this is astounding. The park and grounds are sad beyond belief, whilst the furniture and contents that have not been vandalised are stored elsewhere, saved in 1985 from further abuse. The remaining chandelier in the saloon is now partially smashed, the other broken into smithereens. The chimney piece of the main dining

room is ripped out, never I suspect to be recovered. Is all this, and more, evidence of the loving care of the owners?

I cannot criticise the government's decision to sell the house; this decision was obviously taken in good faith by the minister concerned. It is subsequent events that must be criticised. Neither do I doubt but that the al-Ghazzi family spent money in abundance on a so-called restoration plan.

I would ask, though, what end does grading and planning serve? Why was it that such fundamental changes to the house were nodded through or condoned by the DoE and English Heritage? Surely the point of planning and listing is not to confuse quantum of money spent with quality of work undertaken?

The government has until December 11 to respond to the receiver's request for clarification as to whether or not it will re-purchase the property. After that date the house will presumably be sold to the highest bidder and all obligations under the covenants imposed by government on the al-Ghazzi family, but sadly not enforced, will disappear.

It is to be hoped that government will now buy back Heveningham and present it to the National Trust who so competently ran it as agents in the 1970s. The house is hardly suitable, as has been proven twice in the last 20 years, to be used as a private residence. Any attempt to follow that route will once again put the property at risk and delay the obvious solution for its future — public ownership.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGITA WHEELER,  
Broadlands, La Hogue Die,  
Grouville, Jersey, CI,  
September 25.

### Oxfam and politics

From the Director of the International Freedom Foundation  
Sir, Mary Cherry of Oxfam (September 26) splits hairs. This foundation has identified what it considers to be over 150 cases of partisan political activity by Oxfam and its affiliates. The vast majority occurring within the UK and thus contrary to British charitable law. Indeed, the Charity Commission upheld our complaints against Oxfam earlier this year, following a 13-month investigation (report, May 10).

To quote directly from the commissioners' press release on that occasion: "The commissioners require the trustees [of Oxfam] to accept that some of their current campaigning work is political and not charitable. The unacceptable political activities of the charity must cease."

What can, and should, be concluded from Oxfam (Belgium)'s activities is that they are symptomatic of the decline internationally of a once-respected charity into the quagmire of partisan political activity.

Yours faithfully,  
MARC GORDON  
(Executive Director),  
International Freedom Foundation,  
Chesham House,  
150 Regent Street, W1,  
September 26.

### Hero's welcome

From Mr Frank Cope  
Sir, Bravo to the RAF for their welcome to Jackie Mann (report, September 26). What a joy to us all.

On Terry Waite's arrival, may we hope that he is welcomed by our church bells throughout the land. If a few hooters join in, so much the better.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK COPE,  
76 Raleigh Drive,  
Whetstone, N20,  
September 26.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Control of South African broadcasting

From Mr Mendi Msimang  
Sir, The denial by Christo Viljoen, chairman of the Board of Control of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, of state control of South African television (September 25) would be laughable were it not fraught with dire consequences for the vast majority of voiceless South Africans.

Soon after the release of Nelson Mandela last year, there were calls for the democratisation of broadcasting. The government answered by appointing a "task group" headed by this same Christo Viljoen. No representative of independent media bodies or of the African National Congress were part of this group.

The group's report argues the need to depoliticise broadcasting by passing control to the Independent Broadcasting Authority — a body which we regard as anything but independent. All five of its members, including Viljoen, are appointed to a five-year term by the South African president. The task group's recommendations would have them in power until 1997 — probably three years into the first term of a post-apartheid government. The report has left most observers as cynical as ever.

In this period of transition, when all the different voices have to be heard if South Africa is going to make a break with its destructive past, the SABC has to be restructured within the context of an interim governing authority.

This is an urgent matter since nine million South Africans are illiterate and broadcasting is a powerful medium of influence. Unless checked and put in responsible hands, the determination of the

majority of our people to create a free and democratic society will continue being thwarted by a cabal of insensitive mandarins.

Yours sincerely,  
MENDI MSIMANG  
(Chief Representative,  
ANC Mission, UK and Ireland),  
PO Box 38, 28 Penton Street, N1,  
September 25.

From Dr C. F. Forsyth  
Sir, Mr H. Christo Viljoen asserts that the South African Broadcasting Service is no more "state-controlled" than the BBC. In my view, any fair-minded study of the SABC during the apartheid years would conclude that the body was cravenly subservient to the South African government.

To give but one example: in early September 1987 (the incident was documented in your columns on September 16, 1987) the then president, P. W. Botha, was angered that insufficient prominence had been given to his views in the evening television news bulletin. He intervened, by telephone, and before the end of the offending bulletin the SABC broadcast a lengthy "correction" giving the president's views at great length. Whatever criticisms one may have of the BBC, it has not sunk that low.

If Mr Viljoen wishes to create a proper independent broadcasting service in South Africa he should address himself to that task, for there is much to be done. But writing to you in an attempt to defend the indefensible is not the way to achieve that end.

Yours faithfully,  
C. F. FORSYTH,  
Robinson College, Cambridge,  
September 25.

### Political gap

From Mr P. J. Windibank  
Sir, How can Ivor Crewe ("How much do leaders matter?", September 19) join far too many other commentators and write that "the ideological gap between the Conservatives and Labour has never been narrower"? The gap is wide and, if nothing else, ideological.

Conservative economics concentrate resources into the financial community, whereas Labour would place the emphasis on reviving and developing industry. Conservative taxation policies aim at reducing direct taxation — particularly for those who can best afford to pay — starving public services and the national infrastructure, while Labour's aim is to rationalise it and maintain the public sector properly.

### Executives' salaries

From Mr Raymond Durrant  
Sir, The salary of the part-time chairman of the recently privatised company, Scottish Hydro-Electric, has been tripled to an annual sum of £150,000 and other executives with the company have also received very substantial increases (Business, September 20).

The chairman, Sir Michael Joughin, is quoted as saying: "They have got to be paid what they can get elsewhere."

If this is correct, one is prompted to ask why the executives and others now seemingly able to command the new salaries had ever been prepared to take the posts at their privatisation levels of remuneration and why they had not "gone elsewhere" many years beforehand, as opposed to waiting for their post-privatisation salary increases?

It would seem logical that the posts should now be re-advertised to see whether men and women of an even higher calibre than the existing incumbents could now be attracted by the newly-introduced financial emoluments.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND DURRANT,  
195 Marshalls Lane,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

### A sartorial hitch

From Mr Robin Stieber  
Sir, I sympathise with Mr Major (Diary, September 25) in his trouser predicament. The blame for his sartorial laxity lies with the nation's gentlemen's outfitters, who seem en masse to have replaced the neat, secure and hidden hook which used to fasten the tops of our trousers with an unsightly flap held by an exposed button. This is quite likely to work loose and fall, even on prime ministerial trousers.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN STIEBER,  
89 Langthorne Street, SW6,  
September 27.

From Mr W. N. Ramsbottom  
Sir, On a recent holiday in Beadnell, Northumberland, I sighted a Trabant along with thousands of terns, cormorants, kittiwakes, gulls and shags.

The unusual feature was the national identification plate. The first "D" and the "R" had been erased leaving a central, solitary "D".

Yours faithfully,  
W. N. RAMSBOTTOM,  
8 Bridge Green,  
Prestbury, Cheshire,  
September 23.

From Mr Richard Fearn  
Sir, My sighting of an East German registered Trabant occurred last summer at Chesters Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. This raises the question of whether these vehicles have a natural affinity

The Conservative drive is to centralise power in matters such as local government and education, compared with Labour's arguments for greater autonomy for local communities. The Conservatives are grudging about all things European, whereas Labour favours closer involvement — the list goes on.

That Labour and the Conservatives (happily) are both less extreme than hitherto provides no argument for saying that there is little to choose between them, nor for hinting at the unspoken corollary that this is sufficient reason for staying with an ideology that has informed the governance of this country for more than a decade.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WINDIBANK,  
74 The Lane, Blackheath Park, SE3,  
September 20.

### Stranded children

From Mrs Anthony Riddle  
Sir, I am sorry that Mr Ian Botham's son (letter, September 27) and other children (report, September 24) should have had such an unenvying time, courtesy of British Rail. My 14-year-old son's experience was very different.

In July he forgot to change at Doncaster whilst travelling from York to Sheffield. He telephoned home from the InterCity train, having ascertained that he could get off at Newark and catch a train back via Doncaster.

I telephoned Newark, where the station manager kindly put him on the correct train. I also phoned Doncaster to explain that my son had no money and was told that there would be no problem. There wasn't. I didn't have to pay anything.

Yours faithfully,  
KATHRYN RIDDLE,  
9 Rammoor Crescent,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
September 27.

### Shifting the load

From Mr Bob Ransford  
Sir, If it is true, as Stephen Haykdan of the CBI asserts (September 26), that the inadequacy of London's transport is already costing businesses £10,000 million a year and that the cost will increase, then it would be a wise investment, and fair to the taxpayer elsewhere, if those same businesses that have helped to create the congestion by crowding into one small corner of the country decided to contribute the more than £100 million to make up the sum Network SouthEast says (report, September 20) is needed for providing a remedy.

Yours sincerely,  
BOB RANSFORD,  
Tusany, Great Walsingham,  
Suffolk,  
September 26.

For decrepit walls left behind by decadent empires?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD FEARN,  
Flat 4a, 28 Sutherland Avenue, W9.

From Mr N. C. F. Barber  
Sir, I spotted a Trabant in Wester Ross, Highland, last year, heading north (noisily). Is it possible that this sputtering bird finally migrated home and has returned this year, with some young, to be sighted by Mr Hawkins whose letter you published on September 20? Should they not be caught and ringed in readiness for the 1992 season?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS BARBER,  
Burners Cottage, Rowley Lane,  
Wexham, Buckinghamshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 28  
Sports letters, page 35












**CHANNEL 4**

**0.00 Comic Book: Cartoons 7.00 Once Upon a Time... Special: Exploring outer space through the eyes of animated characters 7.30 Flash Five: A review of unusual sports 8.00 Transworld Sport: International sports news and features**  
**0.00 News followed by Channel 4 Racing — the Morning Line**  
**3.00 Class by Class: The sixth of a seven-part series on the British class system (r)**  
**0.00 Check Out 91: Consumer series (r). (Teletext) (s)**  
**0.00 Wagon Train: The Steve Canfield Story (b/w) (Image)**  
**0.00 Australian Rules Football: Geelong v West Coast Eagles**  
**0.00 American Football: Red 42: Gary Inrich and Mick Luckhurst present American football action from the NFL**  
**0.00 Film: Platinum Blonde (1931, b/w) The first of two films to be shown this afternoon as a tribute to the late Frank Capra director extraordinary. A newspaperman (Robert Williams) is unhappy married to a socialite (Loretta Young). Then he meets a former colleague (Loretta Young) and love blooms**  
  
**Thrilling comedy: Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert (2.40pm)**  
**0.00 Film: It Happened One Night (1934, b/w) © CHOICE: After watching Capra's *Platinum Blonde* (at 1.00pm) we need to see *It Happened One Night* to understand why Channel 4 considered that Capra, who died recently, was worthy not only of this afternoon's double-bill, but of a ported biography too (4.40). *It Happened One Night*, with Gable as the reporter who pursues runaway heiress Claudette Colbert, is the quintessential smart-talking comedy of the Thirties, and the least surprising thing that happened one night in Hollywood in 1935 — Academy Award night — is that it won an Oscar for best screenplay (by Robert Riskin) as well as four more top awards, including best picture and best director (Capra). The one delicious moment that everyone remembers in the film is, of course, the 'kiss of denials' scene, with Colbert clapping her ankles over the clothing that separates her from Gable's 'So innocent in 1931. So titillating in 1934'.**  
**0.00 Frank Capra 1897-1991: A documentary portrait of the versatile Hollywood film director, featuring rare and previously unseen interview footage**  
**1.10 Brookside: Omnibus edition (r). (Teletext) (s)**  
**3.00 Right to Reply: Roy McGrath introduces the first of a new series including comment on coverage of the Newcastle estate riot (Teletext)**  
**0.00 The World This Week: A report on the new round of fighting that has erupted in Ethiopia**  
**0.00 Film: Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949, b/w) The gamine Ealing comedy about a distant member of a distinguished family who ends up to murder everyone who stands in his way, including his own relatives, between the 18th and 19th centuries. Starring Kenneth More as the victims, With Dennis Price (as the serial killer), Valerie Hobson and Joan Greenwood. Directed by Robert Hamer**  
**0.00 Next Stop Hollywood: Ray's Male Heterosexual Dance Hall (1987)**  
**© CHOICE: By all accounts, British producer David Puttnam's tenure of office as a Hollywood studio boss was less wallowing or broken glass. However, there's a no wincing or wallowing in sex pot as he introduces the first of ten short films — showbusiness for promising writers, directors and actors — first made under his auspices during his Columbia days. This is the — Bryan Gortor directed — it: won an Oscar for the best live action short film of 1987, and is subject matter, it owes nothing to anybody. Business men' either at the top of the ladder of success or still on the first rung, and from New York's unorthodox public access channels (s) strictly sexual and hierarchical, their conversation technique. There is no more to the film than that, and there does not need to be. It makes the complete statement about what will be universally recognisable as the last race. And makes it with a grin on its face.**  
**0.00 Al Hapenna: In the last of the series, Andy Kershaw visits Ben in search of unemployed apes and sleazy nightspots**  
**0.00 Manhattan Cabaret: Laurie Fink presents the finest, best of extracts from New York's unorthodox public access channels (s)**  
**2.45am The Oprah Winfrey Show: Oprah talks to a Florida grandmother who hired a man to murder her son-in-law (r)**  
**1.35 Red 42 (s) (r)**  
**1B: (s) indicates stereo**

**MC**  
 8:00am *Comic Book 7:00* *On a Time - Space 7:30* *High 8:30*  
 9:00am *World Sound 9:00* *News Summary 9:30*  
 10:00am *Racing - The Money 10:30*  
 11:00am *Time Tunnel 11:00* *(Love Live) 11:30*  
 12:00pm *News Footcst 12:30*  
 1:00pm *American Footcst - Red 1:45* *10:00* *with*  
 1:30pm *Shiny 1:30* *The Razor's Edge 2:15*  
 2:30pm *Marathon Movie of Mount Hall 3:10*  
 4:00pm *The Wonderful 4:30*  
 5:00pm *News Saturday 7:25* *Bach 8:40* *M*  
 9:00pm *TV Test 8:45* *The Drive 10:30* *10*  
 11:30pm *Friday's France 11:00*  
 12:00am *Club 12:45* *The Oprah Winfrey Show*  
 1:00am *American Footcst Red 12:45* *Onwards*

**TE 1**  
 8:00pm *Scratch Sunday 10:00*  
 1:00pm *News followed by The Disney*  
 2:30 *Club Beyond 3:00*  
 4:00pm *The Film One Love 6:00* *The*  
 6:00pm *News 6:01* *News 6:15* *Mailbag 6:40*  
 7:00pm *Reelback 7:05* *Reelback 8:05*  
 8:00pm *News 8:25* *Kenny Live 10:00* *Onwards*  
 11:00pm *The Kater Hall Chronicles*  
 12:00am *News 12:45*

**NETWORK 2**  
 12:30pm *News 12:30* *Sports 12:45*  
 1:00pm *The Legend of Snow 1:40* *5:30*  
 6:00pm *6:30* *Sensation 6:30* *News 7:00*

**USULA ANDRESS (TV, 7.15pm)**

## RADIO 4

**Stereo on FM**

**5.00** Shipping Forecast **6.00**  
 News Briefing, incl. 5.55  
**6.00** Farming Week:  
 Richard Sanders reports from  
 the National Small Farming  
 Show at Stoneleigh **6.50**  
 Prayer for the Day **6.52**  
 Weather **7.00** Today, incl. **7.00**,  
**7.30**, **8.00**, **8.30** News **7.25**  
**7.25** Sports **7.55** Weather **8.54**  
**9.00** News **9.05** Sport on 4  
**9.00** Breakaway, with Ken Bruce  
 News at Six **9.15**  
**9.15** *Prayer Our Own* Communion  
**9.00** Money Box: Financial advice  
 with Louise Botting  
**9.15** News at Six: Barry Took  
 quizzes Alan Coren, Richard  
 Ingrams and guests on the  
 week's events **12.55** Weather

**10.00** Any Questions? Jonathan  
 Dimbleby is joined in Weyland  
 Place, Hertford, by journalist  
 Sandra Armit, Roy Hattersley,  
 MP, deputy leader of the  
 Labour party and opposition  
 spokesman on home affairs;  
 Sir Kenneth Kennedy, QC, and  
 Cecil Parkinson, MP (1.55)  
 Shipping Forecast

**10.00** News, Any Answers? **07.1-5.00**  
 1410-1415 Jonathan Dimbleby  
 with your views on the issues  
 raised in *Any Questions*

**10.00** Saturday Playhouse: The  
 Other Side of the Hill  
 CHOICE: Aspects of the  
 Peninsular campaign, 1808-  
 1813, from Wellington's  
 perspective. Aspects of the  
 campaign, from the boots  
 to aristocrats to drunks;  
 soldiers, in Peter Luke's  
 historically accurate linked  
 plays, based on his own book  
 the second is tomorrow, at  
 the same time. But plenty else  
 besides, a wealth of detail,  
 battle scenes described  
 documentary-style by the  
 actors. Jonathan Dimbleby  
 enjoying the luxuries of home  
 "Some people regard this  
 campaign as a government  
 sponsored sporting tour,"  
 says Wellington (John  
 Pennington), John Moffat,  
 back the evening as  
 Maudslowe in David  
 Copperfield, gives a linking  
 narration as Napier, first  
 historian of the war (s)

**4.00** The Limbus Tree: Michael Scott  
 hosts a light-hearted  
 investigation of science

**4.30** Science Show: Alan Lewis test  
 drives the latest electric cars

**5.00** A Shifting a Week: And all the  
 Mice You Can Eat: Beryl Reid  
 on the history of the Post  
 Office cat (s) (1)

**5.25** Fourth Column (new series)  
 Simon Hoggart and Inenda  
 take a sizzled look at life (2  
 of 7) 5.30 Shipping Forecast  
 5.55 Weather

**6.00** News, Sports Round-Up  
**6.25** The Ending: A review of the  
 week's news with Bill  
 David Tate and Sally Grace (s)

**6.30** Stop the Week, with Robert  
 Robinson (s)

**7.00** Kateroskopos: Virgin Mary—  
 Icon and Muse: Peggy  
 Reynolds traces the impact  
 of the Madonna on art and  
 literature (s)

**7.50** Classic Serial: The Personal  
 History of David Copperfield  
 Miss Betsey: Trollope's  
 characterisation of  
 Charles Dickens's novel (s)

**8.50** Comedy: The Second Act  
 in the second of six  
 programmes John Maltby talks  
 to Gail Hobsbawm, emeritus  
 professor of economic and  
 social history, at London  
 University (s)

**9.50** Music in Mind (s)  
**9.55** News to Ten (s) 9.55 Weather

**10.00** News

**10.15** In Columbus's Wake: Eric  
 Yachmanston Robin Knox-  
 Johnston sets out across the  
 Atlantic to recreate  
 Columbus's epic voyage  
 using only the navigational  
 instruments available in  
 centuries ago (s)

**10.45** The New M25: The Captain  
 in the third of two parts (s)  
 Mayfield Cricket Club: Captain  
 Tim Conish discusses his  
 tactics for a derby match  
 against Five Ashes (s)

**11.00** Richard Baker (new series)  
 Notes with Anthony, a comedian (s)

**11.30** The Harpoon: Comeq:  
 Magazine (s)

**12.00** News and 12.20am Weather  
 12.33 Shipping Forecast  
 12.43 World Service (LW only)

**SOURCES:** Radio 1: 103.94/2/28fm; 106.94/2/27fm FM 97.9-9.99; Radio 2:  
 102.92/2 Radio 3: 121.94/2/24fm; 103.94/2/24 Radio 4: 134.94/2/15fm FM  
 94.94/2/463m Jezz FM 102.2 Radio 5: 115.94/2/33m World Service MW  
 804/147m Jezz FM 102.2 Radio 5: 115.94/2/33m World Service MW 97.3 Capem

هكذا من الاحل











● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-22  
● WEEKEND MONEY 23-30  
● SPORT 31-36

**WEEKEND MONEY**

**Ferranti losses**

Eugene Anderson, the chairman of Ferranti, has told shareholders that he has worked for nothing since arriving to rescue the electronics group last year. He has suffered a £300,000 loss on his shares in the company, which has effectively wiped out his salary in the period. Mr Anderson told Ferranti's annual meeting that the group would continue to make losses in the current year, and is selling its mislabeled business to GEC to settle a £50 million dispute with the group. Page 21



Roger Seelig, the merchant banker accused of taking part in a multi-million pound share support operation, told an enquiry he was involved in a "loose, back-scratching arrangement", the second Guinness trial heard. Page 21

**No rates cap**

Legislation proposed by the OFT to crack down on illegal money lenders will not attempt to outlaw loans charging interest rates of 100 per cent or more. Page 23

**Home claims**

Life companies have paid £8.3 million this year to elderly investors who were persuaded by salesmen to take out home investment income plans. Page 24

**Bonus offer**

Bonuses are being offered to with-profits policyholders of Scottish Mutual if they sanction a takeover by Abbey National. Page 27

**Letters**

**No interest?**



GED

In the credit card war, Peter West advocates use of the Oxfam Visa card, which carries no annual charge and 60 days credit on purchases.

**Joint venture**

NatWest Life, National Westminster Bank's £150 million venture with Clerical Medical, will see an end to the bank's independent adviser status. Pages 21, 23

**Adwest suffers**

Adwest Group is pegging its dividend for the year at 7p after suffering a 43 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £7.1 million for the year to end June. Page 22

**Kettle resigns**

Roy Kettle has quit as executive director of Evered Barton, where interim pre-tax profits fell to £10.3 million. Page 22



Jean Walker, wife of George Walker, the ousted chief executive of Brent Walker, has been re-elected to the group's board. Writs on behalf of Mrs Walker and the couple's son Jason have been served on the company. Page 20

**Deadline near**

Holders of electricity shares will receive letters next week telling them they have until 3pm on October 22 to pay the second instalment for their shares. Page 24

**Bargain hunters**

Bradford & Bingley turned away thousands seeking information on buying a repossessed property with a mortgage rate pegged at 6.99 per cent for two years. Page 25

**Rate reduced**

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has cut the interest on its five-year fixed rate mortgage to 10.2 per cent. Page 25

**Bigger impact**

Signs of a possible end to the recession have brought new optimism for the smaller companies sector, which, after spending two years in the doldrums, is tipped for a significant recovery. Investors with large sums of money on deposit in banks and building societies are being advised to switch part of those assets into a unit trust investing in the smaller companies sector. Page 26

**WEEK ENDING**  
**Matthew Bond**

**This sporting life**

Hugh Hudson, the veteran film director, is already working on a new film project. Fresh from his triumph with Neil Kinnock, City advisers are hoping that the distinguished director can do the same to restore the tarnished reputation of Sir Roland Smith, the ubiquitous company professor who this week reluctantly parted company with British Aerospace.

Sir Roland, a bluff Mancunian, is expected to warm to the *cine ma v rit * of Mr Hudson, whose response to criticism that Mr Kinnock was a loquacious Welshman was to make a film that proved conclusively that the Opposition leader was Welsh and talked a lot. An early draft of what Mr Hudson has in mind has dropped on to the Week Ending desk.

It opens with an early morning long shot of Old Trafford, the mist rising slowly above the hallowed turf of the ground that is home to Sir Roland's beloved Manchester United. While the



camera zooms in slowly, a ghostly choir of unseen supporters begins the ritual chant: "United... United..." before breaking into a rousing chorus of "You'll never work alone."

As the camera begins a jinking run down the left wing, Kenneth Wolstenholme's commentary rises above the crowd. "Smith... to Arthington... back to Smith... to Ordinance..." As the goalmouth nears, the noise swells. "Some shareholders are on the pitch. The institutions think it's all over. Smith... Day... Smith. It is now!" As the ball thuds into the net the crowd roars. Smith wins 432-0.

We cut to Sir Roland's Manchester home. Our hero's day is beginning. Having shaved over his Hepworth Holdings sink, Sir Roland is enjoying a quiet mug of tea in the now somewhat faded elegance of his Mobeia kitchen. Off stage we hear the clatter of the letter-box. Sir Roland checks his calendar. It is the last Thursday of the month. Pay day.

The action freezes as the haunting theme from *Chariots of Fire* begins. The years roll away as Sir Roland relives his glorious university career (Manchester, not Cambridge). In lingering slow motion, the camera tracks his spirit out of the kitchen and along the hall. With sinews straining and veins pulsing, he makes the well practised final dip for the 11 cheques that lie on the Redicuit carpet. Fade again to the Old Trafford roar of approval.

Cut to the business day. Striding purposefully from his front door, Sir Roland glances proudly at the now rusting hulk of the burned-out tank that still decorates his front lawn. As he reaches the gate, 11 chauffeurs clamour for his attention. He picks one and the maelstrom begins. Meeting after meeting, office after office, drafting this, faxing that, hiring here and firing there.

But even Sir Roland must relax. The final scene sees him at a Christmas party. Glancing across the room he catches the eye of Lord Young, who as chairman of Cable and Wireless cuts a more affluent figure than he did in his days at the trade department. "Ah David, just the lad I wanted to see. I don't suppose you want to buy a football club?" As Lord Young smiles and reaches once again for his cheque book, the terrace choir returns with a final stirring reprise: "Work on... work on... with hope..."

\*\*\*\*\*

**BUSINESS PROFILE: Lord Swaythling**

**From aristocrat to meritocrat**

Gillian Bowditch finds David Montagu, the chairman of Rothmans International, a man of business not family

David Montagu, the fourth Lord Swaythling, sits in his elegant Mayfair office and puffs on a cigar of Churchillian proportions. A member of the Samuel Montagu banking family, he exudes the confidence that comes from inherited wealth, an Eton education and the knowledge that, despite a fortunate start in life, he has carved his own niche.

As chairman of Rothmans International, the tobacco group that has stakes in Alfred Dunhill and Cartier, the jeweller, he has a taste for the finer things in life. He has built up an excellent cellar, has an eye for art and owns a string of racehorses. He is civilised, with a dislike of the vulgar.

On paper, he is a perfect product of the establishment, but in reality, his outspokenness has led to clashes with the great and the good. Christopher Chataway, chairman of Crown Communications and a former colleague of Lord Swaythling, says: "He has got to where he is entirely on his own merits. He has always said exactly what he thinks and, in the process, has alienated a number of powerful and influential people. He has a lot of establishment friends but he also has enemies and he hasn't chosen them very carefully."

Lord Swaythling is proud of his family name, his Anglo-Jewish heritage, and his achievements as a banker. His friends testify to his warmth, generosity and loyalty, although they say he never compromises on a matter of principle, and has a biting, acerbic wit.

John Freeman, the former chairman of London Weekend Television, says: "He is remarkably generous. I don't just mean giving away money, but he understands people's problems and goes to some lengths to help. He espouses a cause and then fights very hard. He is someone I trust entirely. He is a man with whom I would go tiger shooting."

Lady Swaythling, who is French, says her husband has "a great deal of vision" and is not afraid of being controversial. "He is observant, he notices little things, which Englishmen, on the whole, tend not to do, and he loves comfortable living."

Despite joining the family bank straight from Cambridge, Lord Swaythling's career has had its peaks and troughs. He says: "No-one has a smooth career. It's like saying you never have a quarrel with your wife. It just isn't true. Mine has been a difficult career."

Nepotism is something he cannot be accused of. Samuel Montagu may have been founded by his great-grandfather, but by the time Lord Swaythling joined the bank, there were no other Montagus in high office. His father had

joined the bank out of a sense of duty but was more interested in dairy farming. "I was taken on very much on sufferance by the then proprietors," says Lord Swaythling. "I joined it because I thought I'd like to see another Montagu at the top of Samuel Montagu. My father had not been a successful banker and I wanted to prove that my family could still run a bank."

He achieved his ambition, becoming chairman of Montagu at the age of 41. Although his name helped, it was a genuine meritocracy and his skill as a banker is well known. Lord King, chairman of British Airways, says: "He is an extremely able banker. One is very relaxed doing business with him. He's an attractive man with good ideas. He's very tenacious."

Lord Swaythling left Samuel Montagu in 1973, after it was taken over by Midland Bank, a deal he oversaw but did not approve of. He was asked to be non-executive chairman. "A

**'He espouses a cause and then fights very hard. He is someone I trust entirely. He is a man with whom I would go tiger shooting'**

greater insult has never been offered to anyone in their early forties, to be non-executive chairman of a business you've run."

Instead, he went to run Orion Bank, a loss-making consortium bank owned by six large international banks. Within six years, he had turned the business around but by 1979 the future for consortium banks was not rosy. He told the shareholders that one of them must buy the bank or they must sell the bank to a third party. "I told them it was a very expensive form of dining club," says Lord Swaythling.

The result was that he left with a £120,000 payoff. Within 18 months, however, Royal Bank of Canada, one of the six shareholders, had bought Orion. An unsuccessful year with Merrill Lynch followed before Lord Swaythling joined his old friend, Jacob Rothschild, as deputy chairman of J Rothschild Holdings. Lord Swaythling has long had a number of non-executive posts. He was on the board of LWT for 21 years, having been

involved in its formation. He is a director of the *Daily Telegraph* and spent 16 years on the investment committee of the United Nations. When he was asked to be deputy chairman and chairman-elect of Rothmans, whose board he had sat on for 20 years, he agreed.

He seems at home at Rothmans, from where he has taken on the anti-smoking lobby. "Tobacco is one of the best businesses in the world," he says. "The fact is that just under a third of the world's population smokes. It's absurd that the EEC talks about total bans on advertising. Tobacco is legal and this country gets a very substantial percentage of its revenue from the industry." He does not return to homes where smoking is banned.

Lord Swaythling met his wife, Ninette, in Paris in April 1951, and married eight months later. He says she is a great source of support, playing down problems that he is inclined to dramatise. He inherited the title when his father, the third Lord Swaythling, died last year, aged 91. The relationship between father and son had never been close. His parents divorced during the second world war and he lived with his mother and stepfather. He was sent to Eton after a spell in Bermuda, to where he had been evacuated during the war, but it was not until Cambridge that he made lasting friendships.

He signed up to read law, but the books looked too dull, so he switched to English literature, with the words of his uncle ringing in his ears: "There is only one reason for going to an English university and that is to learn how to get drunk like a gentleman." He did that, but also developed an interest in politics. He was later an adviser to Edward Heath on taxation and economic policy, but now describes himself as a Tory vet. One of his few regrets is that he did not make a career in politics. His friends are divided on that point. All agree that he is a marvellous speaker, but John Freeman says: "He's too fastidious and too discriminating to make a good politician." His wife says he is not thick skinned enough.

He has a seat in the House of Lords although rarely finds time to attend debates. He chose to make his maiden speech in favour of the war crimes bill, saying he did not want Britain to be "a safe haven for people who had committed the most horrendous crimes. I don't want these pathetic old men brought into court and I don't want revenge but I do want them to feel a slight friction in their hearts when the postman knocks." He describes himself as a "lobster-eating Jew. I



Proud of the Montagu family name: Lord and Lady Swaythling at their home in London

don't believe in the mumbo jumbo of religion but I think it's a tremendous help if you have got faith. I wish I had it and I wish I had wished my children with it."

Lord Swaythling has two children, Charles, aged 37, who is in advertising, and Nicole, 35, who is married to a barrister. His oldest daughter, Fiona, died when she was 29. "I think you have a choice in life of pursuing a career or being a family person. You don't have time for both. I'm not proud of the fact that I'm not a very family-minded person. Of course, I'm proud of my family and I love my family, but I've been selfish over the years."

Lord Swaythling is 63 years old but has no plans to retire. He is keen on golf and plays bridge and billiards enthusiastically. The theatre has been a life-long love and he has ambitions to write a book of anecdotal memoirs and also one on the City. He says: "I've had a happy and an interesting life, but I've had quite a lot of downs as well as ups. I think if I could start again, I may well have gone the route of the law and politics through the law, but that's based on a great deal of hindsight. I have no regrets but I think I'm honest enough to say I would do it differently if I had to do it again."

**C&W spells the end for Faxman**

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

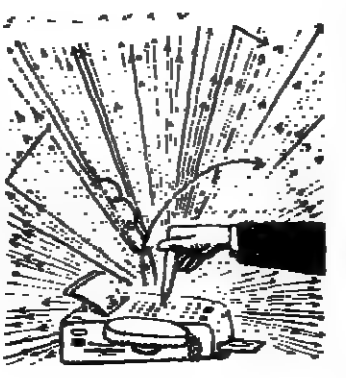
IN A move that is likely to elicit sighs of relief and a lowering of blood pressures at companies across the country, Cable and Wireless has launched SureFax, the first globally managed fax service able to send messages to thousands of addresses worldwide in minutes.

The system is likely to trigger mutterings of concern at international courier companies, and spell the end of some of the more arcane practices linked with the humble task of sending faxes. These include the curious activity, found among some multinational companies now, of

deploying legions of staff behind batteries of fax machines in an attempt to meet deadlines.

While most people are happily tucked up in bed taking a last look at *The Times*, these tenacious employees are labouring into the wee hours, while outside, with meters running, taxis hired to take them home pile on the penalties. Given the technology's enthusiasm for jamming and stalling in mid-flow, large sections of the workforce would appear to be ineffectually employed.

Studies, undertaken by Mercury Communications, C&W's partner, indicate that the average large company chaperones 5,000 faxes of 2.3 pages in length each week. Jane Davies, SureFax prod-



uct manager, said: "Based on these figures, we calculate that 24 man-days each week are being spent standing looking at fax machines." With SureFax, companies set up a fax list as long as

they like, for a one-off £200, that can be simply amended. A special socket, rented for £1.50, allows the service to recognise the fax sender and list. The fax is then sent to a central switch by dialling a special number, instantly "exploding" to all its destinations.

Ms Davies said the service will automatically redial busy fax machines and recognise if a fax fails half way through. The service will redial, sending the missing pages and a cover note. Costs are 13 per cent less than for British Telecom and a few per cent more than for Mercury. Meanwhile, fax machines continue to multiply. In 1985, there were 100,000 in Britain. By 1995, two million are forecast.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**A New Investment Trust.**

Our first Investment Trust - investing in Europe - is expected to be launched in October. Register now for your priority information pack and prospectus. Talk to your Independent Financial Adviser, or Callfree our *Fidelity InvestorLine* representatives on 0800 414191, or return the coupon below.

This advertisement is issued by Fidelity Investments International, a member of DIBU, which will manage Fidelity European Values PLC. Fidelity Securities Limited, a member of DIBU, will offer and manage the FEP. The value of investments may go down as well as up and the investor may not get back the amount invested.

Callfree 0800 414191

The Fidelity Investments International, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0QZ.

Please register me for the Fidelity European Values PLC prospectus.

Tell Name: Mr/Ms/Mrs.

What you do:

Address:

Post Code:

**Fidelity Investments**  
The World's Investment Manager











# FT-SE index ends account just short of 2,600 level

## Adwest yield attracts

The figure is slightly misleading as much of that profit came from a land sale to Bryad Developments, a housebuilding joint venture, 50 per cent owned by Adwest. Sales on this scale will not be repeated this year, and property profits will fall. That leaves the company supported by its collection of engineering subsidiaries in automotive, electrical and defence industries.

The benefits of the cost cuts should balance the fall in property profits with the outcome for the full year likely to be little changed at about £7.5 million. This would give earnings of about 8.5p, enough to hold the dividend at 7p. The shares trade on a fairly demanding forward multiple of 14.6, but the 7.5 per cent yield will continue to underpin.

The benefits of the cost cuts should balance the fall in property profits with the outcome for the full year likely to be little changed at about £7.5 million. This would give earnings of about 8.5p, enough to hold the dividend at 7p. The shares trade on a fairly demanding forward multiple of 14.6, but the 7.5 per cent yield will continue to underpin.

**Alfred-Lyons** rose 14p to 63p, still looking for a bid from Philip Morris, the American tobacco and food group. There was talk that Asda, the troubled supermarket chain, was about to

launch its long-awaited rights issue. As a result, the shares touched 53p before falling to finish 34p, down 65p from the issue failed to materialise.

Racal Electronics strengthened by 3½p to 58p on a turnover of 13 million shares as the speculators pinned their

at 334½p. Glaxo was marked up 20p at £13.56 after the publication of an article about Imigrain, its new anti-migraine drug, in *The Lancet*, the medical journal. A group of Australian doctors claims that

Imigrain could add £500 million annually to Glaxo's worldwide sales. *Fisons* rallied by 2p to 455p after some bearish comments from brokers this week. The asthma conference in Brussels con-

**BOC Group** jumped 19p to 612p in thin trading before the financial year end next week. **Dixons Group**, the electrical goods retailer, continued to lose ground with a fall of 6p to 241p after Thursday's profits warning. **Mowlem**, the construction group, rose 11p to 223p after the go-ahead for the *recreation of London's City*

extension of London's City Airport runway. The extension will allow operators to use jets. The BAe 146 is expected to be the airline operator's first choice. But this failed to cheer British Aerospace, down 15p at 413p amid worries that its rights issue may flop.

**Evered Bardon** held steady at 74½p despite seeing interim profits halved. **David S Smith** dropped 21p to 348p after a gloomy annual meeting.

**MICHAEL CLARK**

**FT-SE 100 VOLUMES**[illegible]

Highdown	1,499	Redland	1,120
IC7	941	Road	1,528

Br Airways	3,768	Kingsfisher	633	Restlers	514	United Bt	87
Br Gas	4,977	Lauro	213	RAC GP	281	Vodafone	6,500
Br Petrol	4,124	Ladbroke	1,085	RTZ	1,370	Wellcome	1,285
Br Steel	8,356	Land Sec	1,015	R-loyce	4,959	Whitb'd	41
Br Telecom	3,636	L&G	945	Roofmans 'B'	228	Williams	1,32
C&W	5,087	Lloyds	1,327	Royal Bank	477	Wills Co	50

## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**



end-of-quarter buying one  
bond with strong bond price  
to push share prices higher  
Rising shares outnumbers  
falling ones by about two to  
one

- POWER PAYMENT 24
- ABBEY TAKEOVER 27
- LETTERS 28

# WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1991

23

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## NatWest limits choice for investors

Only a year after National Westminster Bank employed a politician and a footballer to sing the praises of independent financial advice, the bank has decided to set up a life company and limit the choice available to customers.

"You would not go to Sir David Steel for an independent view of politics, or Kenny Dalglish for an unbiased assessment of football," the bank used to say.

When NatWest Life is launched in about a year's time, customers will not be able to go to the 3,000 NatWest branches for wide-ranging investment advice. They will only be sold NatWest Life products.

The bank, which spent millions of pounds promoting its independent stance, has decided that there is more money to be made by limiting the choice of its customers and doubling its investment salesforce. It says the development of a life company with Clerical Medical will produce "considerably greater

returns for shareholders". NatWest is the second high street bank this week to consider the shareholders ahead of the customers who vastly outnumber them. Abbey National is to buy Scottish Mutual, a middling assurance company with a lacklustre performance record. The two will set up Abbey National Life, and only the investment products of the new company will be available through Abbey National branches from January 1993.

The defection of NatWest to the ranks of the tied agents, after promoting the value of choice, made yesterday a sad day for investors. However good the new "simple", "less complicated" products are, they cannot be the best in every field.

The bank claims that few of its customers realise the value of the service they have been getting,



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

that trust in NatWest was more important. The small percentage of sophisticated and wealthy customers who want a choice will still be given one through NatWest Insurance Services. All they need to do is ask, says NatWest. In practice this is likely to mean that branches will attempt to sell everyone NatWest Life products and only as a customer heads for the door without buying will they be told about the independent investment arm.

While NatWest branches remain independent, every high

street has easy access to independent advice.

Many who have opted for the higher profits of tied agency have blamed the Securities and Investments Board for insisting that independent advisers should reveal to customers the level of commission they receive. They neglect to say that this coded information is not revealed at the point of sale but hidden in documents sent during the cooling off period.

One life company accidentally sent the information to hundreds of customers of its main tied

agent. Not one customer commented.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society, with 300 branches, will be the largest independent in the high street from 1993. It says it remains committed to independent financial advice. As the seventh largest mutual building society it does not have shareholders to consider.

### Debt trap

The total of £8.3 million so far paid out this year to hapless elderly investors tempted into home investment income plans is a hopeful sign. Life companies at last seem to be taking their responsibilities to monitor the activities of their tied agents and clamp down where necessary. They are

admitting that they should have taken a more active part in making sure investors knew what they were taking on. The payments come not a moment too soon.

But there are hundreds more investors who are trapped in a spiral of debt. The bonds that were meant to cover monthly repayments on mortgages taken out to fund the scheme are not doing so. Some people face having their homes repossessed.

Another tied agent of a large life company is under investigation. This must be carried out quickly and compensation paid. The life office concerned must also work together with the building societies that lent money so penalties can be waived or arrangements made to reschedule mortgage repayments.

Lautro must put pressure on life companies to pay up. Fimbra, which regulates independent advisers, must also speed through its investigations of a small number of its members who sold these plans.

## Loans charging 100% interest may survive law change

# Borrie rejects cap on rates

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

LEGISLATION proposed this week to crack down on illegal money lenders will not attempt to outlaw loans charging interest rates of 100 per cent or more. Expensive credit does not concern Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, if it is freely entered into.

Sir Gordon wants the Consumer Credit Act 1974 to be upgraded to deal with lending that involves an element of exploitation. For that reason, a high rate of interest will not be enough for deals to be set aside by the courts if the changes go ahead.

Sir Gordon said he does not want ceilings set for loan rates as in France, the Netherlands and America, among other countries. These would be complicated and, if set high, could encourage a general increase in rates charged. If they were low, they could prevent poorer people from being able to borrow from legitimate sources.

Lenders that provide cash collection services for borrowers, and those that lend to people who might not be considered by high street lenders, can justify charging annual percentage rates as high as 100 per cent, Sir Gordon said.

London Scottish Bank has provided this sort of service for almost 100 years. Based in Manchester, the bank typically gives loans of £200 to people who do not have bank accounts and who pay back over 12 to 36 months. The maximum loan is £1,000 and no secured loans are offered. Most borrowers do not own their homes.

The average APRs for home-collected loans from London Scottish are 85 per cent to 89 per cent. These are changed periodically but are not linked to bank base rates, said Neil Copson, marketing director. Currently the company has 150,000 borrowers with loans totalling £60 million. It estimates that about 2 million households are potential customers.

Every applicant is visited in his or her home and about 85 per cent are turned down, said Mr Copson. This happens after a detailed check of income and outgoings that may reveal they cannot afford the loan.

The OFT report, *Unjust Credit Transactions*, points out that some lenders offering small, short term, weekly collected cash loans do not make checks as to whether the borrowers can afford the payments. They set their interest rates at high levels to cover the cost of default and bad debts.



Home loans: Jeff Harrison, of London Scottish, calls to collect the next instalment from Mavis Edwards

In this way good payers subsidise the bad payers. If checks were made, lower interest rates could be charged to the better risks.

Even loans charging 1,000 per cent interest may not be excessive, said Richard Thomas, director of consumer affairs at the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

If a person borrowed £100 and paid back £10 a week for 14 weeks, the annual percentage rate (APR) would be 1,065 per cent. If there were no pressure to top up the loan and proper checks were made, such a deal should not fall foul of legislation, he said.

The successful cases under the Consumer Credit Act have been most concerned about the level of interest charged. Under the changes, the interest rate and prevailing market rates will be one factor in determining whether a transaction is unjust or socially harmful. In addition, the courts will be expected to decide whether any business behaviour or activity of the lender was deceitful or oppressive, or otherwise unfair or improper.

They will consider the financial pressure the borrowers were under, the age, experience, business capacity and state of health of borrowers. Also the degree of risk accepted by the lender.

whether a false cash price was quoted to disguise the interest rate, or any linked transactions were required.

Under the act, borrowers must ask the courts to reopen credit agreements if they find them extortionate. Since May 1977, when the provisions of the act were enforced, only four cases have succeeded. A further 11 were decided in favour of the lender.

A car loan of £400 had a flat rate of interest of nearly 100 per cent. Birmingham County Court held it was, *prima facie*, extortionate to charge 100 per cent when other lenders were charging 20 per cent. It substituted a rate of 40 per cent.

In 1989 a borrower who took out three loans at flat rates of 78 per cent, 104 per cent and 156 per cent had them reset at 30 per cent by the Court of Appeal. The High Court had earlier fixed them at 15 per cent. Two other cases involved secured loans. The first had an APR of 39 per cent and was refused at 30 per cent, and the second had a flat rate of 42 per cent and was halved.

Over the years the highest interest rate held not to be extortionate was, in two cases, 48 per cent. Others not deemed to be extortionate involved interest rates of 18.75 per cent to 21.6 per cent.

A case involving credit charges of £450 on a loan of

£450 over 12 months, an APR of 319.6 per cent, and others offering similar rates, have been reported to the OFT but not tested by the courts.

The director general wants county courts to be able to reopen cases when lenders are seeking payment if they feel the terms are unjust, without the borrower having to make an application. He also proposes that the OFT and trading standards officers should be able to make applications when it is in the public interest.

The rulings on such cases would form precedents that would act as guidelines for future cases, Sir Gordon said.

Guy Dehn, legal officer at the National Consumer Council, said: "I think there is some case for some kind of capping of interest rates. Consumers can be hoodwinked."

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said the report was welcome. It was harsh and difficult to establish that an interest rate was grossly exorbitant. The proposals should make it easier for the courts to decide a credit deal was not fair practice.

She added that if ceilings were introduced for credit rates there could be a drift upwards. When the Money-lenders Act set a limit of 50 per cent, companies offered loans at 49.9 per cent.

CREDIT unions should be given more financial backing by central government so that financially stretched local authorities have more resources to encourage the spread of the credit union movement, the Office of Fair Trading said this week (Sara McConnell writes).

In its report, *Unjust Credit Transactions*, the OFT singles out credit unions as an important source of credit for people on lower incomes: those most likely to be forced into the arms of a backstreet broker offering credit at extortionate rates because they do not fit the criteria of high street banks and building societies.

Credit unions lend money at reasonable rates to those who have saved with them. Group members normally belong to the same trade union, church, residential community or company.

The report concludes, however, that "credit unions, on the British mainland at least, cannot yet be said to play a major role in providing a viable alternative to extortionate credit".

Credit unions in poor areas are likely to be poor themselves because they rely on savings from their members, the report points out. Many members will be high risk borrowers, at least in the early stages of formation of a union. However, the fair trading office welcomes the formation of credit unions for providing "the impetus of self help within a context of group

## Unions 'deserve more credit'



Larkin: slow development

the guidelines of the particular union. Unions must have reserves equal to 10 per cent of their assets.

They do not have to wait for these to be established, however, before they start lending. There is no deposit protection fund, so if the credit union collapses, there is a danger that people will lose their money.

Paul Larkin, acting chief executive officer of the Association of British Credit Unions, said: "Development has been slow in this country, partly because credit unions are seen as the poor people's bank."

"We haven't been able to offer high interest rates in the past although this is better now rates have fallen. Things are better in America and Canada. There are also 510 unions in Ireland with 1 million members."

Most people borrowed from credit unions for home improvements, weddings, cars or consumer goods.

An option for people on low incomes who have a "continuing and real need" for help is the social fund. This offers means tested loans to applicants for budgeting.

The fair trading office agreed with comments from several respondents to its requests for information who considered that cash limits and other restrictions made the scheme largely ineffective. However, increasing the cash limits of the scheme would not change the means testing requirement, the OFT report points out.

# Read it and weep.

Tears of joy or tears of frustration, depending of course on whether or not you've already started a Martin Currie Investment Trust Savings Plan.

If you have, you'll know that it's a simple, flexible, low cost way for individual investors to share in the greater performance of stocks and shares.

If you haven't, blow your nose and examine the table again. Impressive isn't it? Particularly when you consider the Martin Currie Savings Plan is specifically designed to make it easy for the private investor to buy shares in a range of UK and overseas companies through an investment trust.

With all the advantages of risk diversification, month or a minimum of £200 in a lump sum you can invest in any of the four trusts in the Plan, each with distinct investment objectives. Whether you want long-term capital

professional management and excellent returns, it's hardly surprising that more people are turning to investment trusts to make their savings work harder.

For as little as £20 a

growth or regular income or even a combination of both, the choice is yours.

What's more, there are no initial charges when you invest in the Plan directly. The only

manance of the Martin Currie Savings Plan by sending for our free brochure today.

Please remember that the value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and an investor may not get back the amount invested. The past is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Please complete and return this coupon to Jane Lonsdale, Martin Currie Investment Management Limited, 28 Chancery Square, Edinburgh EH2 1HA or phone her on 031 225 3811

Please send me further information and apply coupon forms

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
MARTIN CURRIE

### Savings Plan Comparison

	1981	1991
Average Martin Currie Investment Trust	£1,000	£6,036*
Average Investment Trust	£1,000	£4,536**
Average Building Society Higher Rate Account	£1,000	£2,182**

cost is stamp duty (0.5%). With all these advantages, shouldn't you be seriously considering our Savings Plan? You can find out how easy it is to share in the perfor-

month or a minimum of £200 in a lump sum you can invest in any of the four trusts in the Plan, each with distinct investment objectives. Whether you want long-term capital

## Credit ceiling enforced abroad

By SARA MCCONNELL

CITIZENS of France, Germany, the Netherlands and most states in America all have more protection from the courts than in Britain against offers of credit at extortionate rates.

France introduced a new system of credit ceilings last year, determined by the average market rates for various categories of loan. It is illegal to lend money at more than a third above these average rates and lenders can face imprisonment or fines.

There are between five and ten prosecutions a year for illegal lending, and the Comité Consultative d'Usure, an advisory body, deals with about 15 cases a month of usurious lending.

The law covers fixed and variable rate loans and refinancing loans, loans up to Fr10,000 (about £1,000), unsecured permanent and hire purchase loans above Fr10,000, and personal and other

loans larger than Fr10,000. Variable and fixed-rate mortgages taken out for more than two years and unsecured loans are also covered. The ceiling is revised every quarter.

In Germany, credit contracts can be declared void in the courts if they are "against good morals", after a court decision in 1979. This held that interest rates that exceeded double the average of bank rates offended good morals.

Rates on mortgages, instalment credit and overdrafts are monitored monthly by the Bundesbank, which also publishes averages for each of these types of loan. When interest rates are high, courts can intervene on contracts charging more than 12 per cent above the average. Long term loans of 100 months can be offered at 2.1 times the average if lenders build in cover for upward movements in rates. Courts will step in in cases where they consider the behaviour of lenders to be unacceptable in demanding excessive

security for loans or not assessing borrowers' ability to pay.

It is up to debtors to take cases to court, but when they do they are eligible for legal aid.

Ceilings on regular interest rates are imposed in the Netherlands and in most states in America. The Dutch have had legislation on rate ceilings for nearly 60 years. Regular interest rates, interest rates on arrears and the cost of early settlement of loans are all capped. These are based on the average of market rates by size of loan. Next year, a new consumer credit act will compel lenders to register loan transactions so that borrowers' commitments can be easily checked.

Lenders exceeding interest rate ceilings in some American states could find the contract invalidated and interest forfeited. All states have consumer protection laws covering limits on credit charges, related insurance and late payment penalties.



# SHOULD YOU

## REALLY BUY SHARES

## IN SOME OF BRITAIN'S

## LEAST KNOWN PUBLIC COMPANIES?

..... The rewards of investing in little-known companies are potentially high. But how can you hope to offset the associated risks?

The answer is through an Investment Trust, which spreads your risk across as many as 200 companies. To buy such a portfolio yourself would be prohibitively expensive.

But it doesn't cost a fortune to invest in the future of smaller companies through an Investment Trust.

The benefits of low costs and spreading your risk apply to all the different types of Investment Trust - whether it's one holding a broad base of blue-chip shares, or those specialising in a particular geographical area or a specific industry sector.

Every Investment Trust is a public company quoted on the Stock Exchange. And, since most of them are listed on the share pages, you will be able to watch the progress of your investment.

For more information please send for 'Buying Shares in Investment Trust Companies'. It's free and produced by the AITC, the Association that speaks for Investment Trust companies. Fill in the coupon or call us on 071-431 5222.



THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

To Ian Cox, Association of Investment Trust Companies,  
Park House, 8th Floor, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ.

Please send me a free information pack. ☐ I am a private investor ☐ I am an independent financial adviser  
(Mr/Ms/Miss) Initials Surname  
Address  
Postcode



Please note that the value of and income from shares may fall and you may not get back the amount you have invested. This advertisement is not approved by AITC Services Limited.

# Elderly still to claim for risky home plans

By SARA MCCONNELL

LIFE companies have paid out about £8.3 million so far this year to compensate more than 400 elderly investors who were persuaded by salesmen to take out high risk home investment income plans. Hundreds more have yet to come forward to claim or seek help.

The life assurance and unit trust regulatory organisation (Lautro), which regulates insurance companies, said this week that there was "at least one other major case in the pipeline involving a tied agent of a life assurance company". Some people could risk losing their homes because they cannot make payments on mortgages taken out to buy the investment bond. They were told that the bonds would generate enough income or grow sufficiently to cover the interest payments and have some income left.

A falling stock market eroded the value of the bonds and they failed to generate enough income to pay the mortgage. In some cases the home is now worth less than the mortgage secured on it. Most of the bonds were taken out between 1988 and 1990, when the housing market and the stock market were both booming.

Gresham Life has so far paid £318,000 compensation to 26 investors who were persuaded to take out a mortgage and use it to buy its investment bonds. The cases of four more are still being discussed.

Tim Elliott, Gresham's



PAULA YOUNG

technical manager, marketing, said a total of about £1.4 million was invested in the bonds, an average of £45,000 per bond. People took out mortgages of between £20,000 and £70,000.

The mortgages were arranged by the Guardian Building Society, now part of the Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Mr Elliott said: "We were aware that the bonds were being used for home income plans and it would have been better if they had never been set up. In hindsight we realised that it was difficult to

know whether the client understood the nature of the investment.

"Someone should have taken on the role to explain the combined impact of the plan and this should have been us."

Guardian Royal Exchange has paid out a total of £7 million to 350 investors, who put an average of £20,000 in an investment bond recommended by InterCity of Darlington, a GRE tied agent. InterCity has since gone out of business. A total of £10 million was received into the

bonds from mortgages taken out with the Newcastle, North of England and Staffordshire building societies between mid 1989 and mid 1990. Investors who made capital withdrawals on the bond or used part of the loan for other purposes will not get that money back.

Ken Franklin, GRE's marketing manager, financial services division, said that up to a third of investors had refused offers of compensation. About a dozen cases are still being investigated.

NM Financial Management has paid out £1 million to 58 investors who were put into the plans by one of the company's tied agents.

GRE's Mr Franklin gave warning that bonds could still be on sale by independent financial advisers as part of home income plans.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester said this week that it was trying to contact 216 investors who had taken out plans with Aylesbury Associates, the independent adviser now suspended by the financial intermediaries, managers and brokers' regulatory association (Fimbra).

Only 35 investors who took out mortgages with the C&G as part of the Aylesbury plan between June 1989 and April 1990 have come forward.

## Power sale payment falls due

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

SHAREHOLDERS in the 12 regional electricity companies will receive letters next week telling them they have until 3pm on October 22 to pay the second instalment for their shares. Those who fail to meet the deadline could lose their entitlement.

The second instalment is 70p. A further payment of 70p is due next September.

Those who want to sell their shares and realise a profit without paying the second instalment have to act quickly. When the companies

were floated at the end of 1990 there were numerous free or cheap share deals offered. Most of these expired by February this year.

Dunbar, Boyle & Kingsley, the private client stockbroker, will allow unlimited batching of shares by friends or families for each individual electricity company for a commission of 15 or 1.5 per cent, whichever is the greater. The offer was due to close on Monday but has been extended until October 11 to allow people to sell up to the last minute before

the second call is due. The firm will sell the shares between October 14 and 22, but the second instalment will then have to be paid.

The Share Centre in Tring, Hertfordshire, is offering to sell shares in the same company at £12.50 a deal, up to £2,000 for the whole family. Shareholders can use the new "no 3" certificates to sell without paying the second call-up until October 11. Those who sell by then will receive payment on October 21. The Share Centre has a free enquiry line on 0800 800008.

# SMALLER COMPANIES - A BIG OPPORTUNITY

Save & Prosper believes that right now UK smaller companies could offer you a big investment opportunity. Smaller companies have historically provided far better long-term results than their larger counterparts and the market as a whole. This is because:

- Many smaller companies operate in niche markets or strong growth areas of the economy.
- Smaller companies can react faster to the challenge of technological advances and changes in the market place.
- Management can have a rapid and positive influence, being closely involved in day-to-day operations.

### WHY INVEST NOW?

The UK economy appears to have started to recover from recession. Interest rates have dropped from 14% to 10.5% since the beginning of the year. Inflation is falling and the CBI is forecasting an upturn in business before the end of the year.

Shares of smaller companies have performed

poorly during the recession. With smaller companies poised to benefit from improved trading conditions, we believe they will provide excellent returns.

### WHY SAVE & PROSPER?

Save & Prosper has a strong investment record in the sector, and prides itself on its specialist approach to managing UK smaller company investments over nearly 25 years. Research in this sector is important. As part of Flemings we have access to extensive group research which involves smaller companies visits worldwide. This included over 500 visits to UK smaller companies in 1990 alone.

Find out more about the opportunity offered by our UK Smaller Companies Growth Fund and Smaller Companies Income Fund, including tax-free investment through a PEF. There is a 1% bonus allocation of units on sums of £3,000 or over if we receive your application no later than 1st November. Talk to your financial adviser, fill in the coupon or call us free now.

CALL FREE 0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. ● 7 DAYS A WEEK

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Please send me details about:

Smaller Companies Income Fund ☐

UK Smaller Companies Growth Fund ☐

Surname Initials

Mr Mrs Miss

Address

Postcode

Home Tel (STD Code) No

Work Tel (STD Code) No

No salesman will call. However, anyone from our investment services department may telephone to seek further information.

THE PRICE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY FALL AS WELL AS RISE. TAX CONCESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CHANGE. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE SUCCESS. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD. IS A MEMBER OF IMRO AND LAUTRO.



THE INVESTMENT HOUSE



1% transaction charge will be waived on purchases from 1st September to 31st October 1991

Consider smaller companies. When the economy is under pressure investors tend to abandon them for the relative safety of larger companies. Hence they become undervalued. When stock markets start to recover, however, the converse applies and the resulting increase in demand causes share prices to rise.

So with falling inflation and interest rates pointing to a further upturn in the markets, what better time to consider the TR Smaller Companies Investment Trust. It's from Touche Remnant, one of Britain's leading investment trust management groups, with over £1,300 million of assets under management. Investments can be made through the Touche Remnant Investment Trust Savings Scheme - from as little as £25 a month or with lump sums starting at £250.

For more information on how to take advantage of this investment opportunity send the coupon today or call Charles Hedgeland on 071-634 0295. Investors should bear in mind that the price of shares, and the income from them, can go down as well as up. This may result in an investor realising an amount which is less than that originally invested. Touche, Remnant & Co. is a member of IMRO.

## TR SMALLER COMPANIES INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

PLEASE SEND ME FULL DETAILS OF THE TR SMALLER COMPANIES INVESTMENT TRUST PLC AND THE TOUCHE REMNANT INVESTMENT TRUST SAVINGS SCHEME

NAME (SURNAME FIRST NAME)

ADDRESS

POST CODE TELEPHONE NO

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS OR SERVICES, PLEASE TICK THIS BOX

TO: INVESTMENT TRUST SAVINGS SCHEME DEPT., TOUCHE, REMNANT & CO., FREEPOST, LONDON E6A 4AB

TOUCHE REMNANT INVESTMENT TRUST SAVINGS SCHEME

If you're looking for a big return on your investment think small.

TOUCHE REMNANT

هكذا من الاجل











INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Product	Current rate	25% rate	40% rate	Min/max investment	Notes
1 year	2.83	2.66	2.12	none/none	1 day
2 year	7.13	7.13	5.70	25,000-50,000	
3 year	7.32	7.32	5.78	25,000-50,000	
4 year	8.51	8.51	5.81	2,500-no max	
5 year	8.75	8.75	5.84	2,500-no max	
6 year	8.47	8.47	5.18	10,000-no max	
7 year	8.28	8.28	5.38	10,000-24,000	
8 year	8.38	8.38	5.10	10,000-24,000	

CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Product	Current rate	25% rate	40% rate	Min/max investment	Notes
1 year	6.48	6.48	5.34	2,500	none
2 year	6.15	6.29	5.03	2,500	none
3 year	2.25	2.31	1.84	1,000	none
4 year	5.53	5.62	4.50	1,000	none
5 year	5.35	5.45	4.34	1,000	none
6 year	5.04	5.16	4.13	500	none
7 year	6.08	5.21	4.57	2,500	none
8 year	6.09	4.85	3.75	2,000	none

ST TIME BUYERS

Product	Current rate	25% rate	40% rate	Min/max investment	Notes
1 year	1.41	3.41	2.73	50 min	
2 year	3.30	3.30	2.54	25 min	
3 year	1.43	1.43	1.14	1 min	

## Scottish Mutual advocates takeover to holders



Mutual agreement: Sir Christopher (left), of Abbey, and Forbes MacPherson, of Scottish Mutual, share an aim

BONUSES averaging £285 are being offered to the 165,000 with-profits policyholders of Scottish Mutual if they sanction the life company's takeover by Abbey National. They will receive a 64-page document next month explaining why Scottish Mutual thinks this the best move for them.

Customers of Abbey National, where Sir Christopher Tugendhat is chairman, will not have a say in the acquisition of Scottish Mutual, even though it will mean that the 681 Abbey branches will stop selling Friends Provident investment products at the end of next year and start offering new ones devised by Scottish Mutual for the separately authorised Abbey National Life.

Scottish Mutual policyholders are likely to be aware that the 25th largest company has a below-average performance record. Investors who have paid £30 a month into a Scottish Mutual endowment policy for 25 years will receive £53,017 this year. Similar investors with Friends Provident policies will receive almost £11,000 more for the same investment.

At least 75 per cent of the policyholders who vote must favour the takeover and demerger of the life

## Bonuses woo customers to catch the Abbey habit

company and approval of the Court of Session in Scotland must follow. The board of Scottish Mutual, chaired by Forbes MacPherson, is recommending voting members to support the proposal.

Scottish Mutual could stop taking on new business and close the funds. It is fighting for business from a declining number of independent financial advisers and has an unimpressive track record. A call for this is likely to be made, as it was when the Britannia Building Society announced it was to take over FS Assurance in 1989. When funds are closed, the last remaining

investors do very well. There are no marketing costs to dilute the performance of the fund. Those who lose their nerve and bail out do badly. FS policyholders received a 5 per cent bonus. Only 367 voted against the deal.

The takeover by Abbey National should reduce the expenses per new policy sold by Scottish Mutual since Abbey National Life will also be selling with-profits policies. The new company will not be able to quote the investment performance of Scottish Mutual when selling policies. In this case it will be no loss to the sales team. Had Abbey

National chosen to buy a better-performing partner, the better record could not be used either.

Abbey National became the appointed representative of Friends Provident in January 1988 and has since only been able to sell Friends Provident investment products through its branches. The five-year contract runs out in January 1993. Abbey National received £30 million in commission from Friends Provident last year. With the profit on writing the business, Abbey National could earn between £50 million and £60 million from its life assurance operation in the first year.

The 135,000 investors with unit-linked policies will not get a vote or a bonus when the deal goes ahead.

Insurance industry analysts had expected more middle sized and small mutual assurance companies to be taken over in the last two years or to take the closed funds route. The Financial Services Act, the stock market crash and the weak housing market have combined to damage their business to an extent where the expense of selling new policies can outweigh the profits made on them.

LINDSAY COOK

## TAX-FREE INVESTMENT IN FAMOUS BRITISH COMPANIES

Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio Personal Equity Plan enables you to invest up to £6,000 (a couple can invest £6,000 each) in famous British companies and not have to pay a penny in tax on the stock market returns.

INVEST UP TO £6,000 TAX-FREE

- It gives you a ready-made portfolio which, as you can see from the current holdings, is truly blue chip.
- Abbey National Glaxo Inchcape
- British Petroleum RTZ
- Cadbury Schweppes Hanson Ranks Hovis McDougall
- Forté ICI Unilever
- Your investment is actively managed by our experts, to take advantage of changing market opportunities.
- Our Managed Portfolio PEP has consistently been one of the top performing PEP portfolios over the past three years.\*
- With interest rates and inflation set to fall further, we believe that now could be a good time to invest in the shares of UK companies. Start your 1991/92 PEP now and take full advantage of the opportunities.

For details talk to your financial adviser, post the coupon or ring us free on 0800 282 101 - now.

CALL FREE 0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. • 7 DAYS A WEEK

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ST  
Please send me details of Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio PEP

Mr/Mrs/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (011) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Work Tel (STD) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
No salesman will call. However, an Investment Adviser may telephone to ask if you would like further information.

THE PRICE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE SUCCESS. TAX CONCESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CHANGE. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP LTD. IS A MEMBER OF IARO AND LAUTRO.



THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

200,000 Times Readers have investments of £25,000 or more.\*  
For further information on how The Times delivers value advertising call Simon Broch or Alex Keighley on 071 782 7523/7115.  
\* Source - AB TGI 1990.

## You know those ads that say the value of your investment can go down as well as up? This isn't one of them.



- When you invest in 36th Issue Savings Certificates, you know exactly what you stand to gain.
- Not to mince words, we're talking about a fixed return of 8.5% pa guaranteed over five years.
- No ifs or buts about it, whatever happens to other interest rates.
- And absolutely nothing to declare on your tax return.
- All Savings Certificates are tax-exempt, no matter what tax rate you're on.
- You can invest up to £5,000 in our 36th Issue (plus an extra £10,000 if you're reinvesting money from mature certificates).
- For more information, pick up a leaflet at your post office.
- Or phone us FREE on 0800 868 700 during office hours.



All savers great and small

## Is your current account giving you this? 5%

If it isn't, you're being talked for a ride. If you're going to bang on about your current account interest rates it helps if you've got a big bass drum. Nothing less than 5% (gross p.a.) in our opinion. Because we're not a high street bank we have no high street overheads. Therefore the interest rates on our current account will always be consistently higher than our competitors. Another advantage is that Firstdirect pays interest monthly on every single penny in your account. And the more you have in your account the higher the rate. See for yourself.

Current Interest on Current Account balances shown - Gross % p.a.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
BARCLAYS Interest Option	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
LLOYDS Classic	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
NAT WEST Current Plus	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
TSB Interest Cheque Account	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
FIRSTDIRECT CHEQUE ACCOUNT	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

Firstdirect is the only normal banking service where you can talk to expert friendly staff who have all your details to hand, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Which means you can do your banking when it suits you, not when it suits us. And because at Firstdirect everything is done over the phone you can do all your banking from wherever you like. Be it at home, in the office, in the car. Anywhere in fact.

A £100 cheque guarantee card isn't a privilege at Firstdirect, it's standard. It also allows you to pay by Swift through hundreds of stores throughout the country. So you not only get generous interest rates on your money, you get a chance to spend it. Better still, you can take out up to £500 a day from any Midland, NatWest, TSB, or Clydesdale bank cash machine. Paying money into Firstdirect is simply itself. Just pop into any of the high street banks, or, if you don't fancy standing in a queue, you can post cheques to us.

If you think you might need an overdraft we can agree a facility as soon as you open your account. And as long as you stay within it we won't send you any horrible letters (promise) and there's no fee for transactions.

At Firstdirect we can arrange the payment of all your bills. You just phone us up, tell us who to pay, how much and when, and we'll do the rest.

So, now you know exactly what you're missing, why not put us to the test? You don't have to close your existing current account if you don't want to. You can just open another account here at Firstdirect and compare the results. For a free current account information pack, either phone us free on 0800 222 000, or fill in the coupon and send it to us (no stamp required). Either way you can't lose.

- AND THIS? INTEREST RATES CONSISTENTLY HIGHER THAN ANY HIGH STREET BANK
- AND THIS? 24 HOUR BANKING, 365 DAYS A YEAR
- AND THIS? A £100 CHEQUE GUARANTEE CARD
- AND THIS? AN AUTOMATIC OVERDRAFT
- AND THIS? A BILL PAYMENT FACILITY

IF YOUR CURRENT ACCOUNT ISN'T GIVING YOU THIS, CALL US FREE ON 0800 222 000 OR FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW

For more information Write to/Call us at/Name \_\_\_\_\_  
about Firstdirect, and Name \_\_\_\_\_  
an application form. Address \_\_\_\_\_  
post this coupon to \_\_\_\_\_  
Firstdirect, Freeport \_\_\_\_\_  
Hills, Leeds LS11 0FF \_\_\_\_\_  
(no stamp required) Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
or ring 0800 222 000 Telephone (inc int) \_\_\_\_\_

FIRSTDIRECT IS A DIVISION OF MIDLAND BANK PLC



# Why waste your money buying shares?

**5p**

A 5 pence piece is all Foreign & Colonial ask in charges for every £25 you invest in the stockmarket.

So why waste pounds in charges when you need only pay a few pence?

Our Private Investor Plan is one of the easiest and probably the cheapest way to invest in stocks and shares.

Through the Plan you can now invest that much more in the successful companies we have carefully selected to build your savings.

Shouldn't you be making more of your money with the help of the world's most experienced investment trust manager?

For your copy of our Private Investment Plan brochure and application form, phone Eleanor Brett on 071-628 8000 during office hours or our 24 hour number below. Alternatively, post the coupon today.

Share in the success.

24 HOUR PHONE SERVICE 071-454 1404

**Foreign & Colonial**

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

For a copy of our Private Investor Plan brochure and application form, send this coupon to Foreign & Colonial Management Limited, PO Box 2, Telford, Shropshire TF10 9NW

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

WM/1/28.9

Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd is Manager of eight Foreign & Colonial investment trusts and a member of FIMCO. Charges exclude Government stamp duty (minimum 50p). The value of shares can fall as well as rise and past performance is no guide to the future.

## Sum total of small is large

From M. Potok  
Sir, I agree wholeheartedly with your correspondent E. A. Shelley (September 14) when he complains about the substantial drop in income from savings with the building

societies since last year. In fact I should go even further. Why is it that the income from savings increases with the amount of deposit? In effect those of us of modest means are made to contribute to the income of those better off.

## Nationwide delay

From M. J. Calder  
Sir, A year ago I had exactly the same experience with Nationwide Anglia Building Society as Mr MacNeill (September 21), when I waited for two months to receive an even larger balance of endowment policy proceeds after repaying my mortgage loan.

From the many telephone calls (my letters were not answered), I gathered that a staff shortage was the cause of the delay. What concerns me is that, a year later, nothing has apparently been done to improve the situation and that a large organisation like Nationwide still does not respond to letters from customers who have suffered worry and expense on (certainly in my case) a substantial scale.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. CALDER,  
42 Carson Road,  
SE21

Surely the building societies derive their income from the total of the deposits and the total contributed by small investors is bound to exceed that of the large ones if only because there are so many more of us.

Yours faithfully,  
M. POTOK,  
West Wind,  
Frillford Heath,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire.

## Useless statistics

From Mr W. Chambers  
Sir, I am among those who sought to change their current accounts, but I refuse to answer questions that are impertinent. In order to open a small account into which I would pay a fixed monthly amount by direct credit and from which I would pay household expenses (no overdraft is required for an obvious reason), why should I

## Assisting charity with or without the help of credit cards

From Dr Peter G.F. West

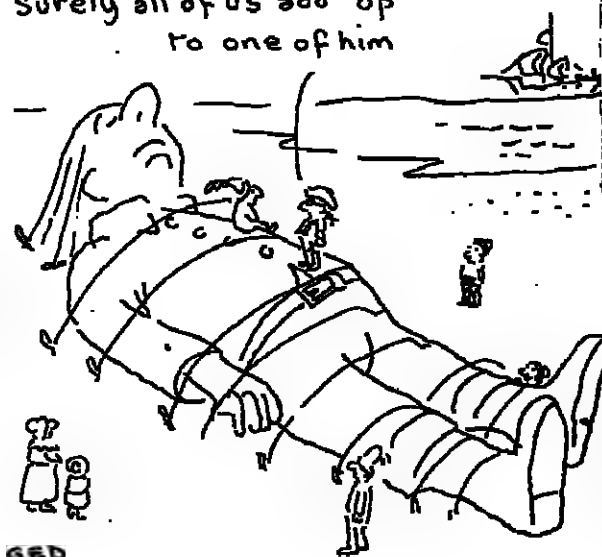
Sir, I would suggest to Rev. S. Salter (Weekend Money Letters, September 14) that the Oxfam Visa card is worth consideration. There is no annual charge, over £300,000 has already been raised for Oxfam's work around the world, and the card is frequently admired at the till for its colourful picture of the world.

Not only do I benefit from

up to 60 days credit on purchases, but I also borrow on the day after statement day for 1 1/2 per cent, which is an interest rate of 11 per cent if paid off in full just before the statement two months later. Occasionally I have been caught out by a postal delay or bank holiday and paid interest when trying to cut it too fine.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER G.F. WEST,  
Consultant psychiatrist.

**LETTERS**  
Surely all of us add up to one of him



give my age (other than "over 18"), whether I am married or living in sin or whether I own my house? These are irrelevant matters - particularly when the society concerned is indebted to me to the extent of tens of thousands of pounds.

Yours faithfully,  
W. CHAMBERS,  
8 Beech Road,  
Salisbury,  
Bristol.

## All is quiet from building society

From Mrs Lorna Campbell  
Sir, It was with interest that I read of Mr MacNeill's experiences with the Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

I, too, have received most unsatisfactory treatment from this same building society. I am still waiting for a mortgage, which was taken out with them in joint names, to be transferred to my name over a year after all the relevant papers were put in the society's hands.

This is despite constant enquiries and requests for some action.

I finally wrote to the managing director six weeks ago and have not yet had the courtesy of an acknowledgement, far less a reply.

In view of this, I contacted the Building Societies Ombudsman to assist me with my problem.

I heartily concur with Mr MacNeill's advice to prospective buyers to avoid this building society when taking out a mortgage.

Yours faithfully,  
MRS LORNA CAMPBELL,  
11 Patrickhill Road,  
Glasgow.

## Little used cards present hidden menace

From Mr Roy Worthington  
Sir, The widespread use of the cards involves a hidden menace for account holders, especially those who do not use them regularly and might therefore not realise that they are missing for some time after burglary or loss.

My humble understanding in circumstances where cards have been stolen, and then fraudulently used by the thief, is that the account holder may be responsible for losses incurred by the issuing banks, until such time as they have been informed of the loss of the card.

Presumably substantial sums could be, therefore, involved, especially with a debit card, and I wonder if you might care to run a feature on



this in the paper, and also comment on the protection available under household insurance policies.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY WORTHINGTON,  
Jubilee Cottage,  
30 Shortlands Road,  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey.

## Card switch

From G. Fisher  
Sir, The correspondence about the vulnerability of plastic cards has been emphasised to me this week when my son received, in an envelope addressed to him, a Switch card for someone else, sent by

Midland Bank. This could surely have been misused even in the absence of the PIN number.

Yours faithfully,  
G. FISHER,  
3 Dadfield Close,  
Cuddington,  
Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire.

## Electing to save dollars

From P. H. Dunn  
Sir, Can you please help me with advice on the best way to invest up to £10,000 in an interest-bearing dollar account, either in main line American bank or US Government Stocks.

I would want to buy and hold in dollars together with accumulated interest, so that I have a hedge, in the event of the Conservatives' defeat in the next general election.

With that in mind, one would buy dollars between now and late November at hopefully 1.70 plus.

Yours faithfully,  
P. H. DUNN,  
72 Whitchurch Road,  
Cardiff.

**Touche Ross replies:**  
It is hard to say what is the "best" way to invest this sum but the following points should be considered:

a) An investment in a dollar denominated bank account is similar to an investment in an ordinary bank deposit account except that the sterling value of the sum deposited will vary as a result of fluctuations in the exchange rate between the UK and America; the interest rates paid will also reflect US rather than UK conditions.

b) An investment in US government stocks has all the characteristics of the bank account with the additional feature that its dollar value will fluctuate according to variations in market conditions (principally interest rates) in the US; it is therefore inherently more risky than the bank account.

c) It is relatively easy to make either sort of investment. If a bank account is chosen, any of the major UK banks will be able to assist with and advise on its opening. If government stocks are chosen, a stockbroker should supply the equivalent service.

From a tax point of view, one should bear in mind:

a) The interest arising from either type of investment is taxable in the UK.

b) A capital gains tax liability may arise on a holding of government securities when they are ultimately sold or redeemed, calculated by reference to the original sterling cost of the stocks and the sterling equivalent of the disposal proceeds (at the exchange rate of the date of disposal), subject to indexation relief and the annual £5,500 exemption.

c) Perhaps surprisingly, there is also an exposure to capital gains tax with the dollar bank account, each withdrawal from which counts as a disposal of a chargeable asset (the gain being calculated as for the government stocks, with a proportionate part of the cost being used where a partial withdrawal is made).

d) Assuming there are no other connections with the US, there would be no US income or capital gains tax to pay.

Published replies marked with the triangular logo are by Maurice Parry-Wingfield, national tax partner at Touche Ross, the accountant, in association with *The Times*. Readers' letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies.

# Early retirement.

With some pension companies you could regret it for the rest of your life.



Work hard enough to retire earlier than planned, and you might expect to be rewarded.

With a personal pension plan from some companies, however, you could be bitterly disappointed. Because only part of the fund accumulated under the plan could be available to provide benefits.

With The Equitable, the full value is available, so the fund value is the same as if you'd chosen that time to retire in the first place.

And, when buying a pension with the accumulated fund, it's worth remembering that we have one

of the widest ranges of annuities available - including a with-profits annuity. With the prospect of a longer retirement nowadays, the great thing about a with-profits annuity is that it provides the possibility of an increasing income as the years go by.

Find out how we could make your pension contributions work as hard as you do. Call Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or write to The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 7BR for further information by post and by telephone.

**The Equitable Life**

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

BCBIA  
Member of LAUTRO

## AN INVITATION TO BANK WITH ONE OF THE OLD ESTABLISHED NAMES IN THE CITY.

Robert Fleming is one of the leading merchant banks in the City of London with a heritage dating back to 1873 when it established the first Scottish Investment trust in Dundee.

Nowadays Flemings is established as a major force both in the UK and internationally in the fields of banking and investment management offering a service that is second to none.

But Robert Fleming, in association with Save & Prosper, also offers three interest bearing accounts:

**The Deposit Account** - a high interest deposit account with immediate cheque book access. (Minimum opening deposit £1,000).

**The Premier Account** - a prestigious current account available to those earning in excess of £40,000 p.a., with a gold VISA payments card, a £250 cheque guarantee facility, standing orders and direct debits.

**The Classic Account** - an interest bearing current account with a VISA payments card, a £100 cheque guarantee facility, standing orders and direct debits, and no charges if in credit.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INVITATION**  
Find out more about what banking with one of the old established names in the City can offer you. Fill in the coupon below or ring our Moneyline for written details and an application form.

CALL FREE 0800 282 101

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

PERSONAL BANKING SERVICES

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Blandford SM1 1HL.

Please tell me more about: The Deposit Account ☐ The Premier Account ☐ The Classic Account (Applicants must be Home Owners) ☐

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel (STD code) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Tel (STD code) \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited is incorporated in Scotland and is a member of the Bank of Scotland Group.

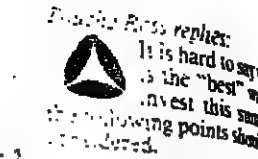
**ROBERT FLEMING** **SAVE & PROSPER**

هكذا من الاجل



# Electing to save dollars

From P. H. Dunn  
Sir, Can you please help me with advice on the best way to invest up to £10,000 in interest-bearing dollar accounts, either in the main American bank or US Government Stocks.  
I would want to buy a hold in dollars together with accumulated interest, so that I have a hedge in the event the Conservatives' defeat the next general election. With that in mind, I would like dollars to be worth more than £1.00 plus. Yours faithfully, P. H. DUNN, 12 Church Road, London.



It is hard to say the "best" way to invest this small sum. The following points should be considered.  
An investment in a dollar-denominated bank account is like an investment in a pound-denominated bank deposit. The sterling value of the sum deposited will rise or fall with fluctuations in the exchange rate between the dollar and the pound. If the dollar falls below £1.00, the value of the investment will fall. If the dollar rises above £1.00, the value of the investment will rise.  
The investment in a dollar-denominated bank account is also subject to the risk of default by the bank. The investment in US Government Stocks is also subject to the risk of default by the government.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Champion	Leisure	
2	Permanence Sand	Newspapers/Pub	
3	Compass Co	Leisure	
4	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
5	CEC	Electricals	
6	Barclay Index	Newspapers/Pub	
7	Burdess	Bank/Discount	
8	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
9	Vodafone	Electricals	
10	Manders (J)	Building/Roads	
11	Sieck	Industrial A-D	
12	Stax & New	Services	
13	Stax	Oil/Gas	
14	BCC Group	Industrial E-K	
15	WFF	Paper/Print/Adv	
16	Devis & Newman	Transport	
17	Radcliff Metal	Industrial L-R	
18	RMC Gp	Building/Roads	
19	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K	
20	APV	Industrial A-D	
21	Elc Data Process	Electricals	
22	Baynet (Charles)	Industrial A-D	
23	Ramsell	Chemicals/Pha	
24	THORN EMI	Electricals	
25	Menzies	Industrial L-R	
26	Abbey	Building/Roads	
27	Ron Bros	Bank/Discount	
28	Wells	Drapery/Shoes	
29	Progen	Property	
30	Johnson Manley	Industrial E-K	
31	Red Executive	Industrial L-R	
32	Benson	Paper/Print/Adv	
33	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
34	Macos 4	Electricals	
35	BET Out	Industrial A-D	
36	Bent	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	Applied	Motor/Aircraft	
38	Nat West	Bank/Discount	
39	Kwik Save	Food	
40	Weir	Industrial E-K	
41	Land Sec	Property	
42	Charles Im	Industrial A-D	
43	Yorkville	Textiles	
44	Macdon (A & J)	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

### BRITISH FUNDS

100000 High Low Bid Offer Prev Close

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

### UNDATED

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

### INDEX-LINKED

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares mixed at close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 16. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day September 30. Settlement day October 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Prev	Change	P/E
1	Champion	Leisure		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
2	Permanence Sand	Newspapers/Pub		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
3	Compass Co	Leisure		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
4	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
5	CEC	Electricals		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
6	Barclay Index	Newspapers/Pub		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
7	Burdess	Bank/Discount		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
8	Woodside	Oil/Gas		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
9	Vodafone	Electricals		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
10	Manders (J)	Building/Roads		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
11	Sieck	Industrial A-D		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
12	Stax & New	Services		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
13	Stax	Oil/Gas		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
14	BCC Group	Industrial E-K		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
15	WFF	Paper/Print/Adv		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
16	Devis & Newman	Transport		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
17	Radcliff Metal	Industrial L-R		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
18	RMC Gp	Building/Roads		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
19	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
20	APV	Industrial A-D		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
21	Elc Data Process	Electricals		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
22	Baynet (Charles)	Industrial A-D		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
23	Ramsell	Chemicals/Pha		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
24	THORN EMI	Electricals		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
25	Menzies	Industrial L-R		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
26	Abbey	Building/Roads		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
27	Ron Bros	Bank/Discount		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
28	Wells	Drapery/Shoes		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
29	Progen	Property		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
30	Johnson Manley	Industrial E-K		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
31	Red Executive	Industrial L-R		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
32	Benson	Paper/Print/Adv		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
33	Rugby Group	Building/Roads		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
34	Macos 4	Electricals		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
35	BET Out	Industrial A-D		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
36	Bent	Paper/Print/Adv		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
37	Applied	Motor/Aircraft		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
38	Nat West	Bank/Discount		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
39	Kwik Save	Food		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
40	Weir	Industrial E-K		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
41	Land Sec	Property		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
42	Charles Im	Industrial A-D		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
43	Yorkville	Textiles		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2
44	Macdon (A & J)	Property		100.00	99.00	99.00	100.00	99.50	+0.50	15.2

## Portfolio PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited  
WEEKLY DIVIDEND  
£4,000  
Claims required for +220 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div	High	Low	Bid	Offer	Prev	Change	P/E
191	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
192	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
193	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
194	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
195	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
196	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
197	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
198	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
199	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
200	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
201	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
202	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
203	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
204	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
205	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
206	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
207	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
208	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
209	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
210	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
211	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
212	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
213	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
214	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
215	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
216	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
217	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
218	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
219	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
220	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
221	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
222	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
223	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
224	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
225	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
226	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
227	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
228	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
229	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
230	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
231	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
232	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
233	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
234	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
235	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
236	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
237	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
238	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
239	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
240	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
241	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
242	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
243	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
244	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
245	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
246	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
247	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
248	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
249	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0
250	Chubb	Leisure		200	11	11	11	11	-	18.0



olympia  
eats will  
expect  
n league

...ents will  
expect  
in league

## MONEY MARKETS

**...for  
so for**

هكذا من الاصل







Laura Thompson

# A Saturday night out which left me hating boxing

I shall always think of last Saturday as the last day of summer. I spent the afternoon outside at Portobello Road bar, the street teeming with people watching the sun give its farewell performance, drinking and talking about the fight.

The fight was imparting an edge, an excitement, a collective focus to the nonchalant smiling afternoon atmosphere: it was as if everybody knew about it, cared about it, which in this part of the Portobello Road was probably true. Everybody had a ticket, or they were waiting for a man who would give them a ticket, or they were going to somebody's house to watch it, or they had money on it.

As day turned to dusk, as I changed my clothes into something more suitably in the mood of the occasion, so this sensation vibrated ever more strongly inside me. I got in my car and put on the soul music, the audible echo of the orchestra turning up in my viscera. I was going to the fight.

The moment that I have always loved most at boxing matches (and which I was loving, although I did not know it, for the last time) is the walk through the amassing crowd to the ridiculous privileged seats that - tinsling, self-conscious strut, between boys wearing hard-faced expressions, between girls wearing red satin shorts, between seen-it-all men wearing tatty bear coats: all of us playing our part in this real life piece of cinema. It is the moment when I have always found the bitter-sweet savour of a fight most pungent to the taste.

Tonight, though, the taste was obscure, elusive, ominously subdued, overtly imminent - as if this crowd was expecting, demanding, something that would take it out of itself and make all the fairy-tale build-up come true. For the moment it was not going to feel anything. It was not going to waste its capacity for the transcendent experience.

In the ring, a fight was taking place but it was like something on a scarcely-regarded television screen; if anything of note were to happen, then one could, one felt, press the stop button, rewind and have a proper look at it, at one's emotionally-detached leisure.

*'It was the punch that did it, not the hype. It was the hype that made the crowd try to storm the ring'*

body hates what happened. Yet, beyond the practical recommendations towards increased safety, what happened may have had little real effect: those who did not like boxing before now like it even less, while many of those who watch it and prize it still seem to want to do so.

The call to ban boxing is merely a knee-jerk response. The indictment of what Julian Critchley called "potentially lethal hype" is merely a desire to put the blame somewhere other than the obvious place, in the nature of the sport itself. It was the punch that did it, not the hype. It was the hype that made the crowd try to storm the same ring they had ignored during the undercard.

Henceforward, the hype will probably calm down, but the punches will not. Last Saturday left me with the raw reality of boxing and left me hating it. What I wonder is whether those who still love the sport are more or less realistic about it than I am.

## BOXING

# Polls show a majority to be against a ban

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DICK Owen, the father of Johnny Owen, who died as a result of a brain operation after his bout with Herol Graham at Wembley in 1989, said that he too would encourage his sons to box, but only if the British Boxing Board of Control ensured the sport had tougher safety measures. He believes that a doctor should be allowed to stop a contest.

Dr Adrian Whitson, senior medical officer of the board, said that this would not be possible because "no doctor can give a considered medical opinion in 30 seconds or a minute and a half. You've got to be able to stop that contest, take the boxer away from the ring, put him into a medical room, examine him and take him back and that's going to take 15 minutes."

A straw poll, taken on Thursday's *Question Time* on BBC 1, also produced a vote against a ban, by a 3-1 majority.

## CYCLING

# Longland looks ahead

By PETER BRYAN

GLENN Longland, the national 12-hours record holder with a ride of 300 miles, will be confirmed as this year's British best all-arounder time trial champion tomorrow, with an average speed of 26.94mph for 50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours.

The Southampton rider is in an unassailable position on the last day of the competition and cannot be denied a repeat of his 1986 victory. But he said yesterday that he will not defend his title next year.

Instead, he wants to make his 24-hours time trial debut with the aim of improving the British record of 307 miles set by Roy Cromack, of Yorkshire, in 1969. Cromack's is the oldest cycling record still standing: he is the only rider to have passed the 500-mile milestone in a one-day ride.

Longland's second target for 1992 is the 12-hours tandem record of 277 miles with his partner, Neville Stroud.

The Southampton rider is in today's Lee Valley 30 miles and ride again tomorrow near Chelmsford in the Essex Roads 25 miles.

The Soviet Union stages its first indoor six-day race, in Moscow, next month with a world-class field of 16 teams which will include three Britons: Tony Doyle, an expert six-day man, Shaun Wallace and Colin Sturgess.



John Reid and Assessor, left, power clear of their rivals to win the PCL Japan Society Stakes at Ascot yesterday

# Tompkins takes honours with treble

By RICHARD EVANS

MARK Tompkins achieved a sparkling 254-1 treble at Ascot yesterday and had punters cheering all the way from Newmarket to Newcastle.

Canny Chronicle, who completed the three-timer in the Ebor Stakes, was trained by the Newcastle Evening Chronicle with 250 readers owning shares.

Tompkins pioneered the idea of regional newspapers having horses in training and it has worked well as readers up and down the country.

"We have six horses currently owned or leased by newspapers," Tompkins said. "The Newcastle Evening Chronicle originally leased Canny Chronicle with an option to buy which it decided to take up recently after the horse won at Newcastle on Plate day."

Tompkins and several shrewd connections backed the three winners in doublets and trebles. "What a day. We thought we had a great chance but I have only had one winner at Ascot before," the trainer added.

Vixen Venture trotted up in his handicap debut in soft ground at Ayr last Saturday and Tompkins was anxious to run the three-year-old again before he was reassessed.

"It was a case of going for an apprentice race or coming here for a £12,000 handicap. Fortunately it worked out," he said after the bottom weight had won the A F Budge Limited Handicap by two lengths from the Chelmsford.

Gilt Thorne finished fourth behind Sarcia in last week's Ayr Gold Cup and made the most of a 9lb turn round in the weights to snatch victory by a neck.

Sarcia, who was carrying ten stone and did not have the best

# HAC blueprint proposes new racing authority

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

AN HISTORIC change in the way racing is governed is proposed in a blueprint due to be approved by the Horseracing Advisory Council next week.

The Jockey Club, which has controlled the sport for more than 200 years, should give way to a new two-tier authority which is representative of racing's various interests, it says.

The power-sharing plan comes at a crucial time for racing as it grapples with the consequences of years of underfunding and criticism from Westminster that it lacks commercial and democratic accountability.

The HAC report meets the recommendation of the Commons Home Affairs select committee that there should be a "powerful and competent single body to speak for and manage the racing industry."

The blueprint envisages a new racing body - no name has yet been agreed although the British Horseracing Authority remains favourite - which has between 15 and 25 representatives of owners, trainers, racecourses, jockeys and the Jockey Club would be among those represented, with no single faction having overall control. Some favour the Levy Board having a seat.

A smaller management board, which would be answerable to the main authority and possibly include outside professionals, would have its own executive to carry out the day-to-day functions of running racing.

The proposed structure, drawn up by a ten-man team led by Sir Nevill Macredy, the HAC chairman, also involves racing's existing bodies pooling their assets.

The HAC plan deliberately refrains from being too detailed in order to allow flexibility, but it will increase the pressure on the Jockey Club to agree to reform.

The Jockey Club, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1870, is a self-electing body which is officially responsible for the proper organisation, administration and control of all horseracing, race meetings and training in the UK.

Lord Harrington, senior steward, is currently heading a four-man team at Portman Square which is examining the possibility of changing the way racing is controlled.



Harrington leads four-man Jockey Club team

## CARLISLE

**MANDARIN**  
2.15 Rotherham. 2.45 Nishikida. 3.15 Hoddam. 3.45 Valiant Dash. 4.15 Bear's Picnic. 4.45 Tasmian.  
**THUNDERER**  
2.15 Rotherham. 2.45 Nishikida. 3.15 Northern Meadow. 3.45 Valiant Dash. 4.15 Bear's Picnic. 4.45 Spool.  
**GOING: FIRM, HARD IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE); FIRM (HURDLES)**  
**2.15 BROTHERS WATER NOVICES HURDLE** (21.45; 2m 4f) (5 runners)  
1-111 FIRST STAGE 3 (5) 10.5m 4-1-1-1 D Byrne  
2-24 ROTHERHAM 55 (13) R C Lundy 9-1-4  
3-24 ROTHERHAM 55 (13) R C Lundy 9-1-4  
4-24 ROTHERHAM 55 (13) R C Lundy 9-1-4  
5-24 ROTHERHAM 55 (13) R C Lundy 9-1-4  
**2.45 CITY OF CARLISLE LEISURE SERVICES CLAMMING HURDLE** (21.47; 2m 11f) (4)  
1-2411 NISHIKIDA 11 (7) M H Easterly 11-1-1  
2-2411 NISHIKIDA 11 (7) M H Easterly 11-1-1  
3-2411 NISHIKIDA 11 (7) M H Easterly 11-1-1  
4-2411 NISHIKIDA 11 (7) M H Easterly 11-1-1  
**3.15 WEST CUMBERLAND INSULATION COMPANY REED RUM HURDLE CHASE** (23.02; 3m) (2)  
1-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
2-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11

## 3.45 WEST CUMBERLAND INSULATION COMPANY HANDICAP HURDLE

1-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
2-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
3-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
4-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
5-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
6-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
7-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
8-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
9-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
10-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
11-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
12-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
13-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
14-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
15-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
16-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
17-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
18-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
19-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
20-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
21-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
22-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
23-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
24-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
25-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
26-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
27-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
28-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
29-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
30-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
31-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
32-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
33-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
34-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
35-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
36-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
37-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
38-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
39-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
40-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
41-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
42-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
43-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
44-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
45-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
46-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
47-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
48-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
49-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
50-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
51-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
52-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
53-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
54-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
55-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
56-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
57-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
58-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
59-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
60-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
61-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
62-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
63-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
64-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
65-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
66-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
67-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
68-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
69-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
70-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
71-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
72-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
73-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
74-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
75-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
76-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
77-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
78-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
79-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
80-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
81-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
82-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
83-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
84-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
85-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
86-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
87-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
88-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
89-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
90-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
91-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
92-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
93-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
94-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
95-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
96-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
97-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
98-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
99-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11  
100-4811 HODDAM 55 (13) D Bost 12-11-11

## REDGAR

**MANDARIN**  
2.00 Flash Bulb. 2.30 Fit The Bill. 3.00 Sense Of Priority. 3.35 La Bamba. 4.10 Euroflight. 4.40 Star Adorn. 5.10 Breeze Away.  
**THUNDERER**  
2.00 Ghyldale. 2.30 Rive-Jumelle. 3.00 Martindale. 3.35 Highest Prize. 4.10 Eleganza. 4.40 Capriat. 5.10 Breeze Away.  
**GOING: GOOD TO FIRM**  
**2.00 REYNARD SELLING HANDICAP** (22.01; 1m 2f) (16 runners)  
1-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
2-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
3-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
4-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
5-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
6-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
7-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
8-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
9-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
10-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
11-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
12-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
13-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
14-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
15-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
16-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
17-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
18-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
19-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
20-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
21-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
22-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
23-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
24-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
25-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
26-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
27-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
28-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
29-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
30-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
31-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
32-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
33-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
34-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
35-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
36-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
37-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
38-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
39-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
40-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
41-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
42-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
43-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
44-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
45-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
46-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
47-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
48-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
49-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
50-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
51-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
52-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
53-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
54-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
55-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
56-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
57-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
58-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
59-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
60-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
61-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
62-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
63-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
64-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
65-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
66-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
67-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
68-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
69-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
70-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
71-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
72-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
73-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
74-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
75-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
76-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
77-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
78-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
79-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
80-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
81-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
82-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
83-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
84-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
85-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
86-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
87-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
88-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
89-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
90-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
91-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
92-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
93-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
94-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
95-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
96-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
97-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
98-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
99-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
100-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1

## 3.35 REG BOYLE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP

1-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
2-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
3-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
4-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
5-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
6-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
7-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
8-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
9-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
10-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
11-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
12-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
13-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
14-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
15-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
16-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
17-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
18-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
19-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
20-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
21-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
22-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
23-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
24-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
25-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
26-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
27-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
28-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
29-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
30-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
31-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
32-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
33-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
34-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
35-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
36-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
37-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
38-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
39-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
40-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
41-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
42-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
43-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
44-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
45-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
46-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
47-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
48-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
49-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
50-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
51-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
52-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
53-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
54-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
55-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
56-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
57-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
58-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
59-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
60-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
61-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
62-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
63-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
64-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
65-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
66-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
67-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
68-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
69-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
70-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
71-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
72-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
73-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
74-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
75-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
76-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
77-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
78-325 RIVERMAN 22 (7) 10m 3-1-1-1  
7



7	(4)	29883	GRACIOUS BEAUTY 21 (M) (Hamdan Al-Maklout) W Ham 8-8	8 Pious 7	98
8	(1)	40-	TUANA 406 (D Jefferson) D Moffatt 8-8	J Quinn	
9	(8)	3	ZUHAL 10 (Hamdan Al-Maklout) H Thomson Jones 8-8	R Hite	81

BETTING: 5-2 Gracious Beauty, 7-2 Chandigarh, 5-1 Angelo's Double, 7-1 Scarsden, Zuhul, 10-1 Sunnyvale Rock







[illegible]



Americans strike early blows in Ryder Cup

# Spaniards save Europe from a 4-0 drubbing

From Mitchell Platts, golf correspondent, at Kiawah Island, South Carolina

SEVERIANO Ballesteros and José María Olazábal yesterday completed another famous victory after being embroiled in a rules dispute with their American opponents during the opening four-ones of the Ryder Cup here on the Ocean Course.

The Spaniards called in the referee after spotting that Chip Beck and Paul Azinger had broken the "one-ball" rule, a condition of play in the match, at the seventh hole.

But the Americans, who stood to lose the hole, escaped without a penalty because Ballesteros and Olazábal delayed bringing the infringement to the attention of the referee or their opponents until they left the ninth green.

The penalty can only be imposed if the violation is reported before the players tee off at the next hole.

Ballesteros and Olazábal, however, put the incident behind them and from three down after nine holes they recovered to win 2 and 1. It provided Europe with their only success on a morning when the United States took a commanding 3-1 lead as a freshening wind provided the course with additional protection.

Azinger and Beck were given the opportunity to exact revenge when in the afternoon four-balls they once again found themselves paired against Ballesteros and Olazábal. They were delayed from teeing off by 40 minutes



David Miller, page 35  
Ireland win, page 35

because their morning round took four hours 25 minutes to complete.

Beck had broken the rule by driving at the seventh with a ball of a different compression to that which he had teed-off at the first hole.

The rule states that a player must adhere to the same brand of ball and the same compression of ball, although in foursomes play the rule is relaxed to allow each player the opportunity to tee-off with his choice of ball at alternate holes.

Although it is not a rule of golf it is a condition of play not only for this match but also on both the US PGA Tour and the PGA European Tour. It would appear that Ballesteros and Olazábal missed the chance of claiming the hole through sheer lack of knowledge of the rule. Beck had started with a ball of 90 compression at the first but he drove with one of 100 compression at the seventh.

Ballesteros and Olazábal sought advice from Bernard Gallacher, Europe's captain, before stating their view and the four players debated the incident for more than ten minutes on the tenth tee.

Azinger admitted that the Americans had broken the rules, stressed that there was no intention to cheat but questioned why Ballesteros and Olazábal had waited for more than two holes to lodge their objection.

Ballesteros said: "It is nothing to do with cheating and we waited because I had sent Sam Torrance to get Bernard Gallacher so we could discuss with him what we should do." Gallacher, a stickler for the rules, took a firm grasp of the situation once he arrived at the tenth tee and he instantly recognised that no penalty could be imposed. He said: "The Americans broke the one-ball rule but we didn't claim when we should have done."

Larry Startzel, the chief referee, said: "The Europeans were aware of the violation but if you like they were one day late or a dollar short. The onus was on them to make the point known. What we have here is a bit of a fumble by both teams."

Azinger and Beck, three up at the turn, appeared to lose their concentration as they took three putts to lose the tenth and Ballesteros and Olazábal launched a magnificent counter-attack.



Happy winners: Ballesteros and Olazábal show their delight after fighting back to take the top match in the first series of foursomes

Olazábal hit a superb second shot to within three feet of the hole. Ballesteros made the putt for their first birdie of the match and he made a putt of six feet for another at the 13th to bring the match back to all square.

It was not until the 15th hole that Europe finally gained the lead for the first time in one of the four foursomes. There Olazábal played a marvellous recovery from a waste bunker to within two feet and Azinger missed a putt of four feet.

Ballesteros brought the match to an abrupt end at the 17th hole when from fully 25 feet he read a right to left putt to perfection.

Gallacher was well aware that the seventh win by Ballesteros and Olazábal as a partnership in the Ryder Cup could prove the most influential because it at least put one point on the board following a morning when the Americans unquestionably produced the best golf.

Hale Irwin and Lanny Wadkins extracted four birdies from the first five holes on

their way to a comfortable 4 and 2 win against David Gilford and Colin Montgomerie.

Raymond Floyd and Fred Couples played equally well to establish a four-hole lead with seven to play which proved decisive, despite Bernhard Langer and Mark James elbowing their way back into the match. Langer and James took three holes in succession from the 12th but the Americans won 2 and 1 helped by Floyd holing from ten feet at the 16th.

Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, two down after four holes, were all square against Payne Stewart and Mark Calcavecchia when Woosnam chipped close for a birdie at the 11th.

Woosnam, however, struggled throughout the morning on the greens, which became crisper and quicker as a freshening wind dried them out, and he missed from less than ten feet on each of the next two greens. Stewart and Calcavecchia won both holes although they did not secure their success until the 18th.



Pensive captain: Gallacher consults the scoreboard

## WEEKEND PROGRAMME

Order of play  
Today

Foursomes: From 1pm, BST  
Fourballs: From 5.30pm, BST

Tomorrow  
Singles: From 2.30pm, BST

WEATHER: Today: Clear skies, with temperature in the mid-70s. Wind, 10mph from the northwest. Tomorrow: Clear skies, with temperature in the low 80s. Wind, 5mph from the northwest.

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: 12.15pm-3.25pm: BBC2: 3.25pm-5.30pm: 5pm-11pm: Eurosport: 12.30pm-6pm: 7pm: Tomorrow: BBC1: 1.25pm-4pm: 5pm-10.30pm: Eurosport: 6pm-7.30pm.

PRE-MATCH BETTING (Conti): United States 4-6; Europe 11-6; tie 11-1. Score (US prices first): 14-13-10-1, 10-1, 15-12, 9-1, 10-1, 15-12, 9-1, 12-1, 16-12, 11-1, 14-1, 16-11, 14-1, 18-1, 17-11, 16-1, 22-1, 17-1, 10-1, 25-1, 18-10, 25-1, 33-1, 18-1, 25-1, 28-1, 40-1, 18-9, 33-1, 55-1, 19-1, 40-1, 65-1, 20-8, 65-1, 80-1. Most individual points:

Olazábal, Ballesteros, Stewart, 13-2; Faldo, 7-1; Woosnam, Couples, 9-1; Azinger, 12-1; Langer, 14-1; Calcavecchia, Wadkins, 16-1.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Result
USA	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	2 and 1
Europe	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2 and 1

Foursomes (United States names first)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Result
P Azinger, C Beck	4	W	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2 and 1
S Ballesteros, JM Olazábal	4	C	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2 and 1
R Floyd, F Couples	4	6	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2 and 1
B Langer, M James	5	6	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2 and 1
L Wadkins, H Irwin	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4 and 2
D Gilford, C Montgomerie	5	6	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4 and 2
P Stewart, M Calcavecchia	4	4	4	W	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4 1 up
N Faldo, I Woosnam	4	5	4	C	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4

Foursomes result: United States 8, Europe 1.

W: won, C: conceded.

## Ferguson's team admired at Tottenham

By CLIVE WHITE

PLEASEING though it will have been for Manchester United to receive the approval yesterday of Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, it is indeed not words that will bring the Football League championship back to Old Trafford after a break of 25 years, and in particular their deeds over the next three weeks.

After facing Tottenham at White Hart Lane today,

United must deal effectively with Liverpool and Arsenal in successive games at Old Trafford if their challenge for this year's championship is to be taken seriously. In the opinion of Shreeves, they are already worthy leaders.

"What pleases me as a coach is that the team topping the first division gets the ball down and relies on skill and movement," he said. "They have some excellent players."

Tottenham might be considerably closer in terms of

points to United had their home appearances not lagged behind due to their early European involvement. Their over-reliance on Lineker, however, is worrying, and it is time Durie started taking more of the load off the England forward.

With several defenders unavailable, Tottenham are forced to include four teenagers in their squad. "I wouldn't call it men against boys," Shreeves said indignantly. "That would be an insult to my players. When I was here before we sometimes had eight internationals in the reserves. That can work against you - you get an air of disenchantment about the place."

United are one club who can afford such riches, though there is no sign yet of any unrest. Webb, who murmured

something about a move a few weeks back, was a contented man once more until injuring ligaments in the Rumbelows Cup game against Cambridge on Wednesday. United have never been better equipped to cope with such losses.

The next three games will show what we are made of," Alex Ferguson, their manager said yesterday. "If we show the commitment which we have displayed so far this season I am confident that we will prove our current position is not a false one."

□ If Ron Noades, the ebullient chairman of Crystal Palace, has his way, the British weekend will never be the same again (Peter Ball writes). But Noades has some way to go before convincing his colleagues that the Football Association Premier League should play on Sundays.



Durie: Lineker's partner

## Mansell keeps eye on road

From NORMAN HOWELL in BARCELONA

NIGEL Mansell put last week's pit-stop disqualification in Portugal behind him here yesterday by recording the second fastest time during the first qualifying session for the Spanish grand prix tomorrow.

Mansell, disqualified at Estoril after a wheel came off his Williams, was two-tenths of a second slower than Gerhard Berger's McLaren at the new Catalonia circuit. Third fastest was Ayrton Senna, who could win the championship here. He is 24 points ahead of Mansell with three races left.

Mansell said: "I have forgotten about last weekend, but some people haven't and they are talking about it too much. Without a Williams team this year, there wouldn't have been much of a champ-

ionship at all and that is often forgotten. It has been very tough for us all in the team and not just for me."

"It has been very hard to get motivated today. I haven't slept a lot since last weekend and it took me a long time to get going. On my best lap, I had a big engine problem too with oil pouring out for the last third of the lap. It made things difficult. The engine lost power and I was just grateful to get my time in."

Mansell's time looked good enough for the provisional pole until a few minutes from the end, when Berger slipped past, almost unnoticed as most were concentrating on Senna's third and final lap. Senna was not the only driver to try one more lap than is usual and it was a mixed day for the Brazilian with his tyres

and his communication with the McLaren team.

There are only two sets of tyres for qualifying but drivers can choose to mix and match the used sets. Senna wanted to the best of those he had used, but the team fixed those from his first run. This led to a sharp reaction from the world champion, but he and Ron Dennis, the team manager, were quick to make up.

But for most of the afternoon the eye-catcher was Michael Schumacher, the precocious Benetton driver who is continuing to amaze with his poise, precision and purposefulness. He is fifth on the provisional grid, four places ahead of Nelson Piquet, his vastly experienced teammate.

Petrol fuels suspicion, page 34

## Angelic innocence is lost forever at Gabriels

SIMON BARNES  
ON SATURDAY

How long does it take for innocence to wither and die? That is the question being asked at *Non-League Traveller* magazine.

You would have thought that there was no more innocent pursuit in the world than galloping all over the country to watch Brightingsea versus Halstead or Newport YMCA versus Yaysybwil, collecting football grounds and programmes as you go. But now things have got so bad that the magazine is talking about drawing up a code of conduct for ground-hoppers to prevent various abuses and nastinesses that have soured the Eden of such places as Castleton Gabriels.

Ground-hoppers, desperate for new grounds to visit, have taken to telephoning club secretaries in the middle of the night demanding fixture details, and if they arrive at some obscure ground and cannot buy a programme - the Holy Grail of the visit, the proof that the conquest has been made - they have been known

to turn abusive. The magazine reports that one programme-less group of travellers refused to pay admission and spent the entire match making loud remarks about the facilities, the club and "the north". Great events excite great passions: a lesson ground-hoppers and Castleton Gabriels are learning in a hard school.

Cash-in band

More on the death of footballing innocence. The fanzine phenomenon began as a self-conscious "alternative" to the sycophancy and sensationalism of conventional football journalism. They opposed racism, sexism and homophobia as good chaps do. They made a lot of jokes, too.

Now, this has all changed. Martin Lacey, editor of a new

selection of writing from fanzines called *Get Your Wrist Out*, bemoans the lowering of once-high ethical standards, the incessant rival-baiting and, most of all, the quest for profit. Now, there is money in the game. Naturally, that changes everything.

Lacey was approached by someone starting a fanzine. "I was stunned when he dropped into the conversation, without a hint of irony, the admission that he didn't actually know anything about football and did I think it would be a problem?"

□ This column has been asked to play for perhaps the finest trophy in sport - a ping-pong bat painted by Beryl Cook. Tomorrow, to celebrate the centenary of the Chelsea Arts Club, and to raise money for the Artists' General Benevolent Trust, 31 artists and art dealers, and one newspaper column, will take part in a ping-pong competition organised by the Portal Gallery, where Beryl Cook has a new show. I cannot afford a paint-

ing myself but the chance to earn one through the sweat of my brow and the power of my forehead is irresistible. I look forward to mangling an artist with pure top-spin.

Furtive fondle

All Spain is rocking with laughter after the bizarre affair between the footballers, Michel and Carlos Valderrama in a Spanish league match. The business was summed up by the man who sat in judgment over it all, José Javier Forcens.

After fining Michel £3,000, he described events thus: "Michel, with a furtive glance but a certain hand, seized the intimate parts of Valderrama, manipulating in public that which constitutes a gift assigned by nature exclusively to the masculine sex."

Greenhouse effect

At last, we have an explanation for Yvonne Murray's sad performance in the 3,000 metres

at the athletics world championships in Tokyo. She did much of her training on a treadmill in a greenhouse to get used to the heat, and complained of oxygen debt after the race. Since plants give out oxygen, her greenhouse training took place in an oxygen-rich atmosphere. "Her body would be adjusted to this, to the possible extent of her blood becoming foiled into reducing its red cell content in oxygen-rich air."

This explanation comes from William Gentleman, her former coach and a graduate in zoology, in a letter to *Athletics Today*. Exactly where his tongue is vis-à-vis his cheek, I cannot say.

Pain in the pocket

One of the great things about sporting success in the United States is that you do not have to hang about to cash in. All you need is a certain lack of squeamishness, and squeamishness has never been a problem with Jimmy Connors.

As his magnificent run continued through the US Open, at the age of 39, so he collected eager sponsors with every step. First, he was snapped up by a pain-relieving pill called Naprin, which adopted the slogan "Nupe it, Jimmy". Connors also turned up for his semi-final wearing a shoulder flash with the enigmatic message "Uh-hun". This is not a reference to Monica Seles's ability in the grunt, but to an advertising campaign for Diet Pepsi.

Pepsi also distributed 35,000 sponsored "Go Jimmy" signs to the audience. The rivals to this firm is Coca-Cola, a sponsor of the US Open. Unseemly wrangling developed and the police were called in to confiscate the signs. Now, I learn that Connors was paid "a six-figure sum" for the hurriedly fixed deal. That will revive any residual aches and pains.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

LOOK CLOSER THROUGH A MINOLTA

Minolta give you advanced optics for brighter images and the best range including autofocus binoculars. They're worth a closer look!

MINOLTA

سكننا من الاجل